

Mystery surrounds latest convoy

BAHRAIN (AP) — The whereabouts of another convoy of Kuwaiti tankers — and whether it even exists — was a mystery Wednesday as sandstorms swept the Gulf while shipping executives puzzled over conflicting reports from radio monitors and other sources. Some shipping sources have insisted for three days that a U.S. navy-escorted convoy was moving up the waterway while officials of the state-owned Kuwait Oil Tanker Co. (KOTC) flatly denied it. "Absolutely not," said one KOTC official, speaking by telephone about reports that a convoy was cruising up the Saudi Arabian coast within a few hours of Kuwait's offshore oil terminal at Al Ahmadi. Wind-whipped sand has shrouded the region for the last few days and hampered aircraft and supply vessels regularly chartered by reporters to make visual sightings of convoys. In Washington, the U.S. Defence Department announced the start of "imminent danger pay" of \$110 a month for U.S. servicemen in the Gulf. The pay will go to about 10,000 U.S. personnel, mostly sailors, currently in Bahrain, Kuwait, the Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and parts of the Gulf of Oman.

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King meets UAE air chief

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at Al Nadwa Palace on Wednesday the commander of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) air force, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahayan, currently on a visit to Jordan. The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Al Hussein, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid bin Shaker and commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force Ihsan Shurdom. Sheikh Mohammed later visited the headquarters of the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

Arab information ministers meet today

TUNIS (Petra) — Minister of Information Mohammed Al Khatib arrived here on Wednesday to head Jordan's delegation attending the 24th session of the Arab Information Ministers Council which opens here today. The council will discuss issues related to Arab information and means of developing it. It will also discuss recommendations by the Arab Information Standing Commission which concluded its meetings here on Wednesday.

Syrian missile found in S. Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — The wreckage of an unexploded Syrian surface-to-air missile has been found in South Lebanon, a pro-Israeli militia television station reported. "Middle East Television" operating from Israel's self-declared "security zone" in the south, said the Soviet-built SAM-6 warhead was intact when discovered on Tuesday. Syrian military sources told Reuters on Tuesday that Syria fired two missiles at Israeli reconnaissance aircraft over east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley on Monday.

S. African miners take crucial vote

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Mining executives predicted an end to South Africa's gold and coal mines strikes on Tuesday as hundreds of thousands of black workers voted on a take-it-or-leave-it offer from white-owned companies. Union officials, however, were less confident, saying it was too early to judge the result of the ballot.

Kohl nominates Woerner to NATO job

BONN (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Wednesday he was nominating Defence Minister Manfred Woerner for the post of NATO secretary-general, which is due to fall vacant next year. He told a news conference that Mr. Woerner, a member of his Christian Democratic Union (CDU), had the expertise and international experience to become the first West German to hold the post.

Arab envoys in Cyprus meet over Israeli activities

NICOSIA (AP) — The Council of Arab Ambassadors in Cyprus met Wednesday to discuss Israeli intelligence activities around the Mediterranean island's air and sea ports, a council statement said. "It was agreed to continue contacts with the appropriate Cypriot departments on this issue," the statement said.

Stand-off continues in Italian jail

PORTO AZZURRO, Italy (R) — Six convicted killers holding 22 hostages in a hospital jail on the Italian island of Elba released one of their captives Wednesday but opened fire on a senior official sent into the prison to discuss their demands, police said. The police statement said the single gunshot had missed the negotiator, one of a team of magistrates, but put an end to the first attempt to negotiate directly with the prisoners since the hostages were seized early Tuesday.

King receives Dag Hammarskjold Award

By Nermeen Murad and Rania Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday received the Dag Hammarskjold Award from the Diplomatic Peace Academy for his efforts in promoting international peace and cooperation. Dr. Urbain Dirix, president of the academy, presented the award to the King.

In a speech at the presentation ceremony at the Royal Court, Dr. Dirix paid tribute to the King and said: "There is no head of state or country, nowadays, that is as aware as His Majesty, and Jordan of the need for a just and durable peace in the Middle East."

"The noble goal of peace is a worthy endeavor by itself as is the need for economic and social development that will assure a better future for generations to come."

Jordan's "achievements and the King's efforts are recognized

world-wide," he added.

In an acceptance speech, the King said he considers the Dag Hammarskjold Award as "a recognition of the tireless efforts which the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has been undertaking for the cause of peace and justice in the Middle East."

His Majesty also said that Dag Hammarskjold, who served as U.N. secretary general and died in 1961 while on a U.N. mission in Africa, "tried to build a consensus around the United Nations as the forum where the nations of the world present and discuss their cases, and peacefully settle their disputes. It is this legacy of international legitimacy which he sought to foster, and for which, among other things, he will always be remembered."

"It is with this spirit that we have been striving to find just solutions to the problems besetting our area, henceforth, our constant call for all the parties to abide by the tenets of international

legality, and the principles of the United Nations charter," the King said. "This applies particularly to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iran-Iraq war and the situation in the Lebanon," he said.

The King also emphasized that "any progress toward the comprehensive settlement of these issues will not only benefit the countries of the region but will be, in our view, a major contribution to world peace and international stability."

In conclusion, the King reiterated Jordan's full cooperation with the mission of the academy which seeks to foster world peace and international understanding and cooperation.

In an earlier interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Dirix said that "King Hussein's name was suggested for the award for three years" and "we wanted to wait until our 25th anniversary since it coincides with the 35th anniversary of His Majesty's

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday receives the Dag Hammarskjold Award for Peace (Petra photo)



Iraqi leaders call on Arabs to harden stand towards Iran

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq's top leaders on Wednesday called on Arab states to harden the stand against Iran taken at the end of this week's Arab League meeting in Tunis.

The leaders met in a joint session of the Revolutionary Command Council and the ruling Baath Party, chaired by President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

"(The Arab League) correctly diagnosed the Iranian regime as aggressive, expansionist, wicked and malicious, targeting Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the whole Arab Nation," INA said, attributing the view to the Iraqi leaders.

In a rare show of unity, foreign ministers of the 21-nation Arab League on Tuesday gave Iran until Sept. 20 to accept a mandatory U.N. Security Council resolution ordering a ceasefire in the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

The Arab League slammed Iran for failing to comply with the July 20 resolution, which Iraq accepted. Its secretary general, Chadi Klihi, said he did not rule out a break in Arab diplomatic ties with Tehran if it failed to respond.

IRNA said the Iraqi leaders called on Arab states to get tough with Iran "whose aggression mounts as time passes, and which can only be deterred by a hard Arab stand."

Abu Ghazala estimates Arab aid to Iraq at \$181 billion

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's top military man says Arab oil states have given Iraq \$181 billion during its war with Iran to the detriment of their own economic development.

Defence Minister Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala also told the state-owned weekly magazine Al-Musawwar that Egypt had supplied arms, ammunition and spare parts to Iraq "without discussion or restrictions... many times (it has been) at the expense of the strategic reserves of the Egyptian armed forces."

He charged that continuation of the Gulf war shows Iran and Israel have common aims: eroding Arab resources and relegating the Palestinian question to a secondary position on the international scene.

"The Gulf war has realised the desired results for the two superpowers," the minister said. "It has halted economic development in the region's oil-producing Arab countries since 90 per cent of oil moneys are being spent on the war."

He estimated the aid to Iraq from these countries at \$181 billion — "an astronomical figure. You can imagine what \$181 billion would have meant if spent on Arab development."

(Continued on page 2)

Masri: Tunis declaration very clearly supported Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri returned home on Wednesday after attending a three-day meeting of the Arab League Council of Ministers in Tunis which ended Tuesday with an ultimatum to Iran to accept a U.N. demand for ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Masri said the resolution adopted at the conclusion of the Tunis meeting contained clear terms and phrases which supported Iraq and condemned and rejected Iranian aggression and its violation of the sanctity of Mecca as well as Tehran's transgression of the Saudi and Kuwaiti embassies in the Iranian capital. The Tunis resolution strongly defended Iraq and its stand in honourable defence of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, Mr. Masri noted.

The full Arab summit was held in 1982. Since then, Arab differences have blocked convening a conference.

Djerejian said that while it "is a very welcome sign" that both superpowers are discussing strategic arms reductions, regional conflicts may be even more dangerous than strategic weaponry and have the potential to draw the United States and the Soviet Union into uncontrolled conflict. Citing potential U.S.-Soviet confrontations over Afghanistan, Central America, the Middle East, Angola, Kampuchea, and especially the Gulf, Mr. Djerejian said, "we should have no illusions: the superpowers can be drawn unwillingly into spiraling conflicts over such issues."

Djerejian: U.S.-Soviet cooperation to end Gulf war is possible

CHAUTAUQUA, New York (USA) — A high-ranking U.S. government official says there is a "real possibility" of U.S.-Soviet cooperation to seek an end to the Iran-Iraq war.

Edward Djerejian, senior deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, told a gathering of Americans and Soviets at a "people-to-people" conference in rural New York state that the United States and the Soviet Union should "continue to cooperate as we have cooperated in the United Nations Security Council" to seek an end to the war.

Mr. Djerejian spoke on Monday at an open round table at the Third General Chautauqua Conference on U.S.-Soviet Relations, a forum provided by the Chautauqua Institution and endorsed by the U.S. government. The previous conference took place last year in Riga, Latvia.

"We will be looking very closely at the Soviet Union's decisions... to see if we will be able to work together to really diminish this very present threat," Mr. Djerejian said.

"We are hopeful," he said, "that the beginnings of change that we see in the Soviet Union will translate into real substantive changes" in Soviet attitudes towards regional issues.

Hopefully, he said, "glasnost" and perestroika, "the two key

Musavi rejects 'any compromise' in war

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Musavi on Wednesday rejected any compromise in the seven-year-old Gulf war with Iraq, Iran's official news agency (IRNA) reported.

The report followed an Arab League ultimatum to Tehran Tuesday to accept a July 20 United Nations ceasefire call by Sept. 20 or face a mass break in relations by Arab countries.

IRNA made no specific mention of the Arab League decision announced after an emergency foreign ministers' meeting in Tunis.

But it quoted Mr. Musavi as telling a Tehran news conference that the United States, by intervening in the Gulf, was seeking to impose what the agency termed "an ignominious peace" on Iran "in collaboration with Arab reactionaries."

"We will never agree to such a peace," Mr. Musavi was quoted as saying. "Even a psychological war cannot make us accept a compromise to the benefit of the United States."

Tehran Radio said a senior Chinese official told Iranian leaders Wednesday that Peking expects Tehran "to continue exercising patience" in the confrontation with the United States in the Gulf.

The official radio, quoted Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani as telling Qi Huai Yuan, China's deputy foreign minister: "We do not intend to engage in provocation."

The exchange was reported after U.S. Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger announced that Washington was sending two more warships to the Gulf to bolster the American task force deployed there to protect reflagged Kuwaiti tankers from Iranian attack (See Page 2).

China is Iran's major arms supplier and provided the Silkorm anti-ship missiles the Iranians have deployed along the Strait of Hormuz.

Mr. Qi arrived in Tehran Monday, when he called on all foreign powers to withdraw from the Gulf.

His appeal to the Iranians Wednesday to exercise restraint was seen as part of the U.N. diplomatic effort to end the Gulf war.

Tehran Radio said Mr. Qi handed Mr. Rafsanjani messages from Chinese leaders and "commended Iran's position with regard to Gulf developments."

The Chinese official was quoted as saying that foreign naval intervention in the Gulf had "made the situation extremely dangerous."

The radio quoted him as telling Mr. Rafsanjani: "We expect Iran to continue exercising patience as in the past."

IRNA quoted Mr. Musavi as saying at his Tehran news conference that Iran would follow a "policy of blow for blow" in any confrontation with the United States in the Gulf.

Maksoud warns Iran to honour U.N. call for ceasefire in Gulf

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Arab League's ambassador to the United Nations warned Iran on Wednesday that punitive action may be taken if Tehran does not honour a U.N. Security Council resolution demanding a ceasefire in its war with Iraq.

Clovis Maksoud, appearing on U.S. television, also blamed Iran for the July 31 riots that erupted in Mecca.

Mr. Maksoud called on Iran to support a U.N. resolution passed last month calling for an end to the seven-year-old Gulf war.

Iran has thus far refused to accept all Iraqi calls for a negotiated end to the war. It has not, however, formally rejected the U.N. resolution and is discussing it with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and

Security Council members.

Iran has several weeks to respond to the resolution before efforts will begin to try to force Tehran into compliance. The United States has said it will seek an arms embargo against any party that refuses to honour a ceasefire — namely Iran.

"If they do not comply, I think the Security Council... would have to see what measure it could undertake in order to escalate the incentive for Iran to comply. I think an embargo might be one of the aspects," Mr. Maksoud said.

Mr. Maksoud spoke a day after Arab League officials meeting in Tunisia stopped short of calling a diplomatic boycott of Iran and urged the United Nations to urgently seek a ceasefire.

A decision on severing Arab

Israeli army seals homes of two Arabs

OCUPPED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army on Wednesday sealed up houses in the occupied West Bank belonging to two Palestinians who face trial next week accused of stabbing and wounding an Israeli last December in Jerusalem.

Military officials say Israel seals up houses to discourage other Palestinians from organising anti-Israeli resistance activities.

Earlier Wednesday, Israeli police said a bomb exploded Tuesday night near a post office in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip but caused no damage or injuries.

Police also said a petrol bomb was hurled at an Israeli bus near the occupied West Bank town of Bethlehem. There were no injuries or damage in that attack either, police said.

In another development, the Israeli army said Tuesday it arrested Palestinians on charges they planned a suicide mission in which a 25-year-old woman was to set off a car rigged with more than 200 pounds of explosives.

The attack was to have been carried out in a heavily populated area in Israel, the army said in a statement, but did not elaborate on the location.

An Israeli military official said it was the first such attack planned by Palestinian residents in the occupied territories. Israelis previously have been targets of suicide attacks in southern Lebanon.

The "suspects" were arrested in the towns of Tulkarem, Qalqilya, Nablus and Bethlehem in the West Bank, the statement said. It did not say how many people were arrested, when the arrests took place or when the attack was to have been carried out.

West Germany offers to scrap its Pershing-1As

BONN (Agencies) — West Germany will scrap its Pershing-1A missiles if a U.S.-Soviet accord on global dismantling of Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) missiles is reached, Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Wednesday.

Dr. Kohl, seeking a major breakthrough in the arms talks in Geneva, said he wanted an INF agreement that the U.S. Congress could ratify before the 1988 presidential elections.

"If the United States and the Soviet Union reach agreement in Geneva on the worldwide abolition of all medium range weapons... I am willing to declare today that with the final dismantling of all Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles we will not modernise but scrap the Pershing-1As," Dr. Kohl told a news conference.

Dr. Kohl said Bonn would dismantle its 72 Pershing-1As if — The INF accord between the United States and the Soviet Union settled outstanding questions of verification;

— The accord is ratified by both sides;

— And both sides stick to an agreed dismantling timetable.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater was quoted by West German television as saying the U.S. government had been informed in advance of Dr. Kohl's move. Dr. Kohl's initiative was being studied, Fitzwater was quoted as saying.

But U.S. officials in Washington said Dr. Kohl's offer surprised and puzzled them. The officials, who asked not to be identified, said while the offer might make reaching an expected accord easier, it could create more problems than it solved. They said it undercut the U.S. negotiating position in arms control talks in Geneva.

In Geneva, U.S. and Soviet negotiators had no immediate comment on the offer.

But judging from previous Soviet statements, the offer was seen as removing what Moscow has described as the last major obstacle on the way to a historical accord.

relations with Tehran was put off until Sept. 20 when the League will meet again to decide on action against Iran. Mr. Maksoud said, warning that Arab "flexibility" could harden if Iran pursues the war.

Mr. Maksoud blamed the Mecca riots on Iranians who insisted on staging a political rally during religious ceremonies that turned violent. Most of the dead were Iranians.

"Whether they did it intentionally or not, the demonstrations that took place by some of the Iranian pilgrims tended to politicise the religious occasion and to that extent the responsibility lies with those who instigated the demonstrations," he said.

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Reagan wants Soviets to lift secrecy over military issues

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — President Reagan on Wednesday challenged the Soviet Union to lift a veil of secrecy over its military affairs and wrap up an agreement promptly on banning medium-range nuclear missiles.

Stating that the Kremlin's demand for the removal of West Germany's Pershing-1A missiles as part of an arms accord had no foundation, Mr. Reagan said: "Earlier today, (West German) Chancellor (Helmut) Kohl removed even this artificial obstacle from consideration."

The president referred to Dr. Kohl's offer to scrap the West German missiles at the conclusion of a U.S.-Soviet pact to eliminate short and medium-range nuclear missiles.

"We are therefore hopeful that the Soviet Union will demonstrate that there is substance behind the rhetoric they have repeated so often of late — that they genuinely want a stabilising INF agreement," he said in a speech to California business people and civic leaders.

"The immediate agenda of arms reductions is clear," Mr. Reagan said. "We can wrap up an agreement on intermediate-range nuclear missiles promptly."

Mr. Reagan coupled his appeal for quick agreement in the INF negotiations with a call for new Soviet openness in military affairs.

He said this would help reduce global tensions.

"I say to the Soviet leadership, it is time to show some glasnost (openness) in your military affairs."

At the United Nations, a deputy Soviet foreign minister said Wednesday he hopes the United States will reconsider its rejection of a Soviet proposal for the U.N. Security Council to hold a summit on disarmament and development.

"We believe in the reason and (that) common sense in the long run will prevail," Vladimir F. Petrovsky told reporters.

Weinberger: U.S., allies to send more military support to Gulf

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said additional military support will be dispatched to the Gulf by the United States and several Western European countries, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

"It doesn't have to be a group under American command," Mr. Weinberger told the Los Angeles Times. "The important thing is to have increased capabilities in the area."

Last month, the United States began escorting Kuwaiti oil tankers through the Gulf to protect them from attack from Iran. Tanker traffic in the Middle East has been under attack from Iran and Iraq during their 7-year-old war.

Britain and France already have sent six modern minesweepers to the region.

Although he would not identify specific countries, Mr. Weinberger suggested that other European nations would soon be sending warships to the Gulf. The Netherlands and Italy are considering such action, the Times said, quoting unidentified Pentagon sources.

The secretary called the buildup of Western forces in the Gulf necessary to keep "international waters open and available for non-belligerent legal commerce."

Mr. Weinberger did not say how many more U.S. forces might be sent to the region, but the newspaper quoted unidentified

sources as saying the navy is planning to add five high-speed hydrofoil missile patrol boats and the battleship Iowa has been alerted to prepare for possible duty in the Gulf.

The U.S. Navy is sending the Cruiser William H. Standley and the guided-missile frigate Rentz into the Gulf this week to replace two smaller ships, officials said Tuesday.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, say this change of warships is to maintain fresh crews in the troubled waterway.

They said the replacement of the cruiser Worden and the frigate Crommelin in the navy's Middle East force could occur by Wednesday.

The sources stressed the changes were "one-for-one replacements" and that the Middle East force was not being increased in size.

The turnovers began a week ago when the frigate Hawes sailed into the Gulf to relieve the cruiser Fox. The navy also is about to replace the aircraft carrier Constellation and its battle group in the northern Arabian Sea with a new group led by the

carrier Ranger.

The moves are tied to a navy policy that specifies warships should not be forced to deploy more than six months at a time.

The latest turnovers will maintain the Middle East force at a strength of two cruisers, one destroyer and five frigates. Those eight warships are performing the actual escort work for Kuwaiti tankers.

In addition, the command ship Lathrop and the amphibious helicopter carrier Guadalcanal are also deployed in the Gulf to support navy mine-sweeping helicopters.

The sources said Tuesday the

amphibious landing ship Raleigh also was scheduled to sail into the Gulf later this week, bearing a load of small mine-sweeping boats and Seal commando speedboats.

Beyond the turnovers, the navy also has dispatched a new group led by the battleship Missouri to the region. That group is expected to arrive in the next week or so and will initially deploy in the northern Arabian Sea and Gulf of Oman, just outside the Gulf, the sources said.

The Standley and Rentz are both based in San Diego and departed that California port on July 14.

Palestinian official escapes assassination bid in Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Gunmen raked the car of a senior Palestinian official with machinegun fire near a refugee camp in South Lebanon Wednesday, police said.

They told Reuters that Abu Ali Ghoul, 38, the top political official, was killed in South Lebanon last week. Palestinian sources linked his death to feuding between Arafat loyalists and pro-Syrian Palestinians.

Ghoul, 38, had replaced Hassan Al Haiba, the previous Force 17 commander, who was killed in Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp last February.

About 80,000 Palestinians live in Ain Al Hilweh and other refugee settlements near the southern



Rasem Al Ghoul, a Palestinian official, was killed in South Lebanon last week.

ern city of Sidon. One source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Ghoul was hit twice in the arm and shoulder. The Palestinian driver/bodyguard was hit by three bullets, the source added.

Abu Ghazala: Arabs gave \$181b to Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

"We have given Iraq all it needed without discussion or restrictions, and the subject of restoring (diplomatic) relations was never brought up," Marshal Abu Ghazala said. "Many times we supplied Iraq with ammunition and arms at the expense of the strategic reserves of Egypt's armed forces."

He said Egypt had given Iraq "some important types of arms and spare parts" but did not

specify what. Additionally, he said, Egyptian civilian manpower has "backed Iraq's economy to bolster its domestic front. Egypt's sacrifice in the Gulf war represents many times as much as the money given by (other) Arabs to Iraq."

He said between up to two million Egyptians work in Iraq. Egypt has been charging Iraq for arms deliveries, but Marshal Abu Ghazala said financial gain is not the motive.

Casey 'sidestepped aides' who questioned secret Iran arms sales

WASHINGTON (AP) — The late CIA Director William Casey sidestepped subordinates who questioned the secret weapons sales to Iran, according to a published report Wednesday.

Claire George, the agency's deputy director for operations, said Mr. Casey overruled objections to individuals chosen by the White House to carry out the arms deals, the New York Times reported.

Mr. George's closed-door testimony Aug. 5-6 before the congressional Iran-contra committee was released Wednesday. The Times quoted a transcript it obtained in advance.

According to the newspaper's report, Mr. George told the committee he raised questions about Iranian middleman Manucher Ghorbanifar and retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard Secord, who arranged logistics for the secret arms shipments.

Mr. George said he went directly to Mr. Casey with his objections after learning that Ghorbanifar was the only intermediary for dealings with Tehran.

"I said, 'Bill, I am not going to run this guy anymore,' which means in our language, 'I will not handle him, he is a hum,'" Mr. George said.

However, Mr. George said, Mr. Casey began to circumvent subordinates who objected to the plan.

Mr. Casey, a longtime friend and adviser to President Ronald Reagan, resigned as CIA director in February after being hospitalized seven weeks earlier with brain seizures. He died in May.

Mr. George also was questioned sharply about his claim before another congressional panel in October 1986 that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had no role in secret re-supply operations to aid the Nicaraguan rebels.

The claim has since been contradicted by other agency officials who detailed their involvement in the covert operation.

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Kidnapped Westerners were kept on the move by Sudanese rebels

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Four Westerners who were held hostage for seven weeks by Sudanese rebels said Wednesday they were kept constantly on the move, sometimes on bicycles and once took a dugout canoe across the Nile River.

The three Americans and a Briton said they and their captors went without food some days and feasted on bulls other days.

Their ordeal ended Tuesday when rebels of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) released them and the four Westerners made their way to a small village in northern Kenya.

At a news conference here Wednesday, the four said they were well-treated and grew almost friendly with their captors. Three of the four said they were willing to return to southern Sudan to work.

"I would love to return," said Marc Nikkel, an Episcopal missionary from Redwood, California, who has worked in Sudan for six years. "I love the Sudan and its people."

Steve Anderson, 30, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Briton Heather Sinclair, 29, of Draperstown County Londonderry, also said they would go back to Sudan.

The fourth member of the group, Katherine Taylor, 32, of Johnson City, Tennessee, was asked would she return but she didn't answer.

The four were kidnapped on July 7 from Bishop Gwynne College near the southern Sudanese town of Mundri, 118 kilometers south west of Khartoum. The Americans were teachers at the college and the Briton was the school's nurse.

All but Nikkel work for the Association of Christian Resource Organisation serving Sudan (ACROSS), a church-supported development agency based in Nairobi. ACROSS still has 50 Westerners working in southern Sudan and says it intends to keep them there.

No aid or relief group has sought the SPLA's blessings to work in southern Sudan because of fear it might jeopardize their relations with the government.

After they were abducted, Nikkel said he and his colleagues went to various temporary military camps. They refused to give detailed descriptions of their travels.

Most of the travel was on foot and at night, he said, but there were occasional rides on trucks and sometimes on bicycles.

Once, the rebels and their hostages climbed into dugouts to reach a Nile River island where they spent the night.

"We got a lot of blisters, cuts and the feet, infections," said Nikkel, who wore a gray Sudanese kaftan he was captured in and sandals fashioned from car tires, a common footwear for Sudanese peasants.

"There was no clean water. We drank muddy water from rivers and springs all the way."

The four were subnourished, but looked healthy. The most serious ailment appeared to be the case of dysentery Nikkel contracted.

The two men and two women

said they covered about 32 kilometers a day, but at an easy pace.

"Some of those fellows became as much as possible friends," said Nikkel. "Some English-speaking soldiers tried to persuade us to the SPLA point of view."

The civil war began in 1983, initially as a fight for more autonomy for the predominantly Christian south from the Muslim-dominated north. Col. Garang says his aim now is to overthrow the government in Khartoum, but his rebellion still is confined mostly to the south.

The Westerners said their captors carried few supplies and most of the time the meal was a bull taken from the nomadic herds in southern Sudan. Col. Garang has said his guerrilla fighters give IOUs to the herdsmen in return for the livestock taken.

"We had a couple of days of feasting on a calf or bull," Nikkel said. "We would eat the bull and nothing else, then walk for a day, possibly without food."

The Westerners said they saw no fighting and did not meet any government forces.

The four said they were taken to the Sudanese town of Fitor and made their way to Kenya from there. They said they were "not at liberty" to reveal how they got into Kenya.

ACROSS officials indicated Tuesday that the four walked into the remote northern Kenyan village of Lokichogio, 10 kilometers from the Sudan border.

But a broadcast on SPLA's clandestine radio, monitored in Nairobi, said the former hostages were taken in a small, private plane from Fitor to an undisclosed site in Kenya.

Kuwaiti tanker to get U.K. flag and protection

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is re-registering a tanker in Britain, entitling it to British Royal Navy protection, the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said Wednesday.

KPC official Tim Stafford, who Tuesday denied reports of the refitting of the 263,000-tonne crude carrier Al Faiba, confirmed British press reports and said the company had wanted to keep it secret.

"We were hoping to keep it under wraps," he told Reuters, adding that the refitting had

been motivated by commercial concerns. The company needed European-flag vessels for its expanding operations there, he said.

The Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC), a subsidiary of KPC, already charters four vessels flying the Gibraltar flag. Stafford said. Ships flying the flag of the British colony also get Royal Navy protection.

The British government made clear Tuesday that it considered refitting a purely commercial

procedure and did not indicate any change of policy in the region.

Britain has warships in the Gulf, shortly to be reinforced with a force of minesweepers, to accompany British-registered ships between the Strait of Hormuz and the island state of Bahrain about half-way to Kuwait at the head of the Gulf.

The warships are instructed to respond to attacks and Britain has not ruled out the possibility that they might go to the aid of U.S. vessels in distress.

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| BBC WORLD SERVICE | | |
| 639, 720, 1323 KHz | | |
| | 07:00 | Newsdesk 07:30 International |
| | 07:30 | Special 07:45 Reflections 07:50 |
| | 08:00 | Classical Record Review 08:00 World |
| | 08:30 | News 08:30 24 Hours: News Summary |
| | 08:45 | 08:30 Patches: Choice 08:45 The World |
| | 09:00 | Today 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Time for |
| | 09:30 | Verse 09:40 The Farming World 09:50 |
| | 10:00 | World News 10:00 24 Hours: News |
| | 10:30 | Summary 10:30 News Waves on the |
| | 10:45 | Shoreline 10:45 News Network UK 11:00 |
| | 11:00 | World News 11:00 Reflections 11:15 |
| | 11:30 | Country Style 11:30 John Peel 12:00 |
| | 12:00 | World News 12:00 British Press Review |
| | 12:15 | 12:15 The World Today 12:30 |
| | 12:30 | Financial News: Look Ahead 12:45 |
| | 12:45 | Rules for Living 13:00 News Summary: |
| | 13:00 | Gold and Silver 13:30 Radio Active |
| | 14:00 | 14:00 News Summary: Just Little |
| | 14:15 | OTTime 14:00 News: About Britain |
| | 14:30 | 14:15 New Ideas 14:25 A Letter from |
| | 14:45 | England 14:30 Legacy of Empire 15:00 |
| | 15:00 | Radio Newsdesk 15:15 Multitrack 2 — |
| | 15:30 | Top Twenty 15:45 Sports Roundup |
| | 16:00 | 16:00 World News 16:00 24 Hours: News |
| | 16:30 | Summary 16:30 Network UK 16:45 |
| | 17:00 | Happy Talk 17:00 Outlook: |
| | 17:15 | Opening with News Summary 17:45 |
| | 18:00 | World News 18:00 Radio Newsdesk |
| | 18:15 | 18:15 The Pleasure's Yours 19:00 |
| | 19:00 | World News 19:00 Commentary 19:15 |
| | 19:30 | Legacy of Empire 19:45 The World |
| | 20:00 | Today 20:00 News: Look Ahead 20:45 |
| | 20:45 | 20:45 Sports Roundup 21:00 Newsdesk |
| VOICE OF AMERICA | | |
| NW 1241 & SW 720, 954, 1174, 11925 and 12510 KHz | | |
| | 06:00 | News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA |
| | 06:30 | Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline |
| | 07:10 | 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 |
| | 08:10 | Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 |
| | 09:00 | News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA |
| | 09:30 | Morning 10:00 News 10:10 Newsline |
| | 10:10 | 10:30 Music USA 10:40 News 10:50 |
| | 10:50 | Features 10:50 Special English News |
| | 11:00 | 11:00 News 11:10 Newsline |
| | 11:10 | 20:30 Magazine Show 21:00 News |
| | 21:00 | 21:10 Focus 21:30 Special English |
| | 21:30 | News & Features 22:00 News 22:10 |
| | 22:10 | Newsline 22:30 Special English News |
| | 22:30 | News & Editorial 23:15 Music USA |
| | 23:15 | 23:40 News 24:10 World Report |

FOR FRIDAY

| JORDAN TELEVISION | 23:00 | News summary in Arabic |
|-------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| Tel: 77111-19 | | |
| PROGRAMME ONE | | |
| 18:00 | 07:30 | Koran |
| 18:30 | 08:00 | Programme Review |
| 18:45 | 08:30 | Cartoons and Children's programme |
| 19:00 | 09:00 | The Little |
| 19:15 | 09:30 | Religious series |
| 19:30 | 10:00 | Friday's prayer |
| 19:45 | 10:30 | Sport magazine |
| 19:55 | 11:00 | Religious seminar |
| 20:00 | 11:30 | Catholic Cinema |
| 20:15 | 12:00 | English series |
| 20:30 | 12:30 | Arabic series |
| 20:45 | 13:00 | Viewers' choice (Arabic) |
| 21:00 | 13:30 | News programme |
| 21:15 | 14:00 | Programme review |
| 21:30 | 14:30 | News in Arabic |
| 21:45 | 15:00 | A programme on the West Bank |
| 22:00 | 15:30 | Arabic Series |
| 22:15 | 16:00 | Variety programme |

WHAT'S GOING ON

| TODAY'S EVENTS | 20:00 | Evening Show |
|--|-------|---------------------------------------|
| EXHIBITION | | |
| | 21:00 | News Summary |
| | 21:05 | Evening Show Contd. |
| | 21:15 | News Summary |
| | 21:20 | Evening Show Contd. |
| | 21:30 | News Summary |
| | 21:35 | Evening Show Contd. |
| | 21:45 | News Headlines |
| | 21:50 | Close Down |
| BBC WORLD SERVICE | | |
| 639, 720, 1323 KHz | | |
| | 07:00 | Newsdesk 07:30 Country Style |
| | 07:30 | Special 07:45 Reflections 07:50 |
| | 08:00 | Classical Record Review 08:00 World |
| | 08:30 | News 08:30 24 Hours: News Summary |
| | 08:45 | 08:30 Patches: Choice 08:45 The World |
| | 09:00 | Today 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Time for |
| | 09:30 | Verse 09:40 The Farming World 09:50 |
| | 10:00 | World News 10:00 24 Hours: News |
| | 10:30 | Summary 10:30 News Waves on the |
| | 10:45 | Shoreline 10:45 News Network UK 11:00 |
| | 11:00 | World News 11:00 Reflections 11:15 |
| | 11:30 | Country Style 11:30 John Peel 12:00 |
| | 12:00 | World News 12:00 British Press Review |
| | 12:15 | 12:15 The World Today 12:30 |
| | 12:30 | Financial News: Look Ahead 12:45 |
| | 12:45 | Rules for Living 13:00 News Summary: |
| | 13:00 | Gold and Silver 13:30 Radio Active |
| | 14:00 | 14:00 News Summary: Just Little |
| | 14:15 | OTTime 14:00 News: About Britain |
| | 14:30 | 14:15 New Ideas 14:25 A Letter from |
| | 14:45 | England 14:30 Legacy of Empire 15:00 |
| | 15:00 | Radio Newsdesk 15:15 Multitrack 2 — |
| | 15:30 | Top Twenty 15:45 Sports Roundup |
| | 16:00 | 16:00 World News 16:00 24 Hours: News |
| | 16:30 | Summary 16:30 Network UK 16:45 |
| | 17:00 | Happy Talk 17:00 Outlook: |
| | 17:15 | Opening with News Summary 17:45 |
| | 18:00 | World News 18:00 Radio Newsdesk |
| | 18:15 | 18:15 The Pleasure's Yours 19:00 |
| | 19:00 | World News 19:00 Commentary 19:15 |
| | 19:30 | Legacy of Empire 19:45 The World |
| | 20:00 | Today 20:00 News: Look Ahead 20:45 |
| | 20:45 | 20:45 Sports Roundup 21:00 Newsdesk |
| VOIC OF AMERICA | | |
| NW 1241 & SW 720, 954, 1174, 11925 and 12510 KHz | | |
| | 06:00 | News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA |
| | 06:30 | Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline |
| | 07:10 | 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 |
| | 08:10 | Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 |
| | 09:00 | News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA |
| | 09:30 | Morning 10:00 News 10:10 Newsline |
| | 10:10 | 10:30 Music USA 10:40 News 10:50 |
| | 10:50 | Features 10:50 Special English News |
| | 11:00 | 11:00 News 11:10 Newsline |
| | 11:10 | 20:30 Magazine Show 21:00 News |
| | 21:00 | 21:10 Focus 21:30 Special English |
| | 21:30 | News & Features 22:00 News 22:10 |
| | 22:10 | Newsline 22:30 Special English News |
| | 22:30 | News & Editorial 23:15 Music USA |
| | 23:15 | 23:40 News 24:10 World Report |

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 532005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

| | | |
|-------|-------|-----------------------|
| 10:15 | ..... | Agaba (RJ) |
| 10:15 | ..... | Cairo (RJ) |
| 10:45 | ..... | Damascus, Paris (AF) |
| 10:49 | ..... | Jeddah (RJ) |
| 10:50 | ..... | Dhahran (RJ) |
| 10:55 | ..... | Doha, Bahrain (RJ) |
| 11:00 | ..... | Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) |
| 11:25 | ..... | London (RJ) |
| 11:30 | ..... | Kuwait (add.) (RJ) |
| 11:30 | ..... | Larnaca (RJ) |
| 11:36 | ..... | Cairo, Agaba (RJ) |
| 12:15 | ..... | New York, Vienna (RJ) |
| 12:40 | ..... | Althens (RJ) |
| 13:30 | ..... | Abu Dhabi (RJ) |
| 20:45 | ..... | Rome (RJ) |
| 06:45 | ..... | Baghdad (RJ) |

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

| | | |
|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| 12:00 | ..... | Baghdad (IA) |
| 12:00 | ..... | Bucharest (RO) |
| 12:00 | ..... | Kuwait (LN) |
| 13:20 | ..... | Cairo (MS) |
| 13:20 | ..... | Muscat, Doha, Bahrain (GF) |
| 14:35 | ..... | Kuwait (KU) |
| 15:30 | ..... | Istanbul, Ankara (TK) |
| 15:30 | ..... | Dubai (EK) |
| 16:10 | ..... | Riyadh (SV) |
| 16:15 | ..... | Frankfurt (LH) |
| 19:20 | ..... | Amsterdam, Istanbul (KLM) |
| 20:00 | ..... | Zurich, Larnaca (RS) |
| 20:40 | ..... | Paris (AF) |

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

| | | |
|-------|-------|------------------------------|
| 00:00 | ..... | Agaba (RJ) |
| 11:45 | ..... | Rome (RJ) |
| 12:00 | ..... | Vienna, New York (RJ) |
| 12:00 | ..... | Malaga (RJ) |
| 12:00 | ..... | Kuwait (LN) |
| 12:30 | ..... | Kuwait (add.) (RJ) |
| 12:45 | ..... | Abu Dhabi (RJ) |
| 13:00 | ..... | Brussels, London (RJ) |
| 13:15 | ..... | Frankfurt, Paris (RJ) |
| 13:30 | ..... | Cairo (RJ) |
| 14:00 | ..... | Larnaca (RJ) |
| 20:35 | ..... | Kuwait (RJ) |
| 20:45 | ..... | Abu Dhabi, Dubai Muscat (RJ) |
| 20:50 | ..... | Bahrain, Doha (RJ) |
| 20:55 | ..... | New York, Baghdad (RJ) |

ern Ireland 14:30 Meridian 15:00
Radio Newsradio 15:15 Jazz for the
Asking 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00
World News 16:09 24 Hours: News
Summary 16:30 John Peel 17:00 Outlook:
News Summary 17:45 News
Notebook 18:00 Radio Newsradio 18:15
Desert Island Discs 19:00 World News
19:09 Commentary 19:15 Science in
Action 19:45 The World Today 20:00
World News 20:09 A Letter from Northern
Ireland 20:15 Composer and
Patron 20:45 Sports Roundup 21:00
Newsdesk 21:30 Multitrack 3 22:00
News Summary: Outlook 22:30 Stock
Market Report 22:45 Society Today
23:00 World News 23:30 24 Hours:
News Summary 23:50 Science in Action
24:00 Sportsround 00:15 Music
Now 00:45 A Night to Remember
01:00 World News 01:09 The World
Today 01:15 A Letter from Northern
Ireland 01:30 Financial News 01:40
Reflections 01:45 Sports Roundup
02:00 World News: Commentary

| | | |
|-------|-------|------------------------------|
| 21:00 | ..... | Abu Dhabi (RJ) |
| 21:00 | ..... | Jeddah (RJ) |
| 22:30 | ..... | Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ) |
| 23:00 | ..... | Bangkok (RJ) |

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

| | | |
|-------|-------|-----------------------|
| 06:20 | ..... | Frankfurt (LH) |
| 07:00 | ..... | Cairo, London (BA) |
| 07:00 | ..... | Damascus, Paris (AF) |
| 09:20 | ..... | Beirut (ME) |
| 10:45 | ..... | Baghdad (IA) |
| 11:30 | ..... | Bucharest (RO) |
| 14:00 | ..... | Tripoli (LN) |
| 14:25 | ..... | Cairo (MS) |
| 14:45 | ..... | Bahrain, Dubai (GF) |
| 15:35 | ..... | Kuwait (KU) |
| 16:20 | ..... | Ankara, Istanbul (TK) |
| 16:30 | ..... | Dubai (EK) |
| 16:45 | ..... | Jeddah (RJ) |
| 16:50 | ..... | Riyadh (SV) |
| 20:00 | ..... | Sana'a (LH) |
| 21:00 | ..... | Baghdad (AF) |

MONEY EXCHANGE

| Wednesday rates | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Local sell/buy rates in f | |
| Belgian franc | 89.6/ 90.6 |
| Dutch guilder | 165/ 167.1 |
| French franc | 56.4/ 56.4 |
| Italian lire | 25.7/ 26 |
| Japanese yen (for 100) | 235.9/ 241 |
| Swedish crown | 33.1/ 33.7 |
| Swiss franc | 228.7/ 228.7 |
| U.K. sterling pound | 547.9/ 557.3 |
| U.S. dollar | 340.1/ 343.5 |
| W. German mark | 185.6/ 188.4 |

PRAYER TIMES

| | | |
|-------|-------|-----------------|
| 04:45 | ..... | Fajr |
| 05:00 | ..... | (Sunrise) Dhuhr |
| 12:00 | ..... | Dhuhr |
| 16:15 | ..... | Asr |
| 19:05 | ..... | Maghreb |
| 20:25 | ..... | Isha |

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair, with the appearance of some low clouds. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

| | Min./max. temp. |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Amman | 16 / 28 |
| Agaba | 23 / 34 |
| Deserts | 17 / 31 |
| Jordan Valley | 21 / 35 |

rack 3

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

| | | |
|-------|-------|--------------------|
| 10:30 | | Muscat, Dubai (RJ) |
| 10:30 | | Kuwait (RJ) |
| 10:40 | ..... | Jeddah (RJ) |
| 10:45 | ..... | Abu Dhabi (RJ) |
| 10:55 | ..... | Doha, Bahrain (RJ) |
| 11:15 | ..... | Cairo, Agaba (RJ) |
| 17:00 | ..... | Malaga (RJ) |
| 17:30 | ..... | Cairo (RJ) |
| 18:30 | ..... | Kuwait (RJ) |

Arab panel to publish book on Israeli abuse

TUNIS (Petra) — An Arab League permanent committee on information has decided to publish a document revealing Israel's crimes against the Arab nation. It also plans to issue a book about the condition of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails, especially the torture they experience at the hands of the Israeli authorities, according to Mr. Ali Safadi, director of the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Safadi, who headed Jordan's delegation to the committee meeting which ended Wednesday, said that the decisions were taken in the course of the committee's deliberations on foreign media campaigns linking world terrorism with Arabs.

The committee urged Arab information services to inform Arab masses on the challenges and threats they face, and on ways to benefit from Arab information institutions in foreign countries, Mr. Safadi noted.

The committee recommended that Arab media distribute statements made by Arab leaders and officials openly denouncing international terrorism.

The committee urged the Arab Broadcasting Union (ABU) to increase exchanges of television programmes among Arab states through Arabsat, a satellite launch-

ed by the Arab Satellite Communications Organisation, Mr. Safadi said.

The committee, he said, urged Arab information services to agree on an information plan for covering international events, pooling the information at the news exchange centre in Algiers, and beaming it to Arab countries through Arabsat.

He said that the committee urged the Arab information services to use Arabsat for educational programmes in cooperation with the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO). Mr. Safadi said that the committee recommended that ALESCO, in conjunction with the Arab League information division, prepare programmes pertaining to joint Arab action in cultural, economic and social fields to be telecast on a regular basis to Arab countries.

According to Mr. Safadi, the committee's recommendations will be submitted to the Arab Ministers of Information Council meeting due to open in Tunis today. Jordan's delegation to the Arab meeting is led by Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khateib, who arrived in the Tunisian capital Tuesday.

Parliament recesses after endorsements, debates

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Royal Decree was issued Wednesday postponing Parliament's two-month extraordinary term as of Aug. 22. Called by a Royal Decree on June 20, both the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament held a number of sessions to endorse more than 10 draft legislations referred to it by the government.

Two new deputies, representing the constituencies of Bethlehem and the Kingdom's northern Badia region, were sworn in in the 60-member Lower House.

On July 7, Dr. Carlos Dihmis, a prominent surgeon, won the Bethlehem seat, which became vacant with the death of Deputy Farah Bannoura in January.

Nawaf Saud Al Qadi secured the northern Badia region seat on Aug. 15. Mr. Qadi is the eldest son of Deputy Saud Al Qadi, who died earlier this summer.

Out of more than 10 laws which were endorsed by Parliament during this extraordinary term, three legislations were cited by observers as "the most important" in terms of their contents, and the fervent debates which preceded their approvals. These are the 1987 Dual Nationalities Law, a budget supplement law to the 1986 budget, and the 1987 Curative Medicine Institute Law.

Under the new naturalisation law, whose endorsement coincided with the third annual conference of Jordanian expatriates, Jordanians are allowed to carry dual nationalities, and foreign women married to Jordanians may be granted their husbands' citizenships without any obligation to relinquish their original nationalities.

The Supplementary Budget Draft Law, which allowed the government to spend JD141 million beyond the general budget for 1986, was also approved by both houses, but only after heated debates in which a number of senators and deputies raised questions over the constitutional legitimacy of the government's expenditure without getting prior parliamentary approval.

Both houses passed the 1986 supplement after Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai pledged that his government would not resort to spending beyond the annual budget without parliamentary consent. Mr. Rifai also suggested

to both houses the formation of a joint committee from both the executive and legislative branches to study budget supplements.

According to Mr. Rifai, JD59.5 million of the supplementary budget constituted spending for the armed forces, the public security and civil defence departments for the period 1972-1985. The rest was used to bail out financially-troubled public-shareholding companies and institutes.

The 1987 law on the formation of a national curative medicine institute, responsible for unifying all parties providing medical treatment services in Jordan, was also endorsed by the legislature despite a protest by a number of the Jordan Medical Association doctors (JMA) over the law's legality and a call by them to postpone its endorsement until the issue was studied further.

After regrouping all civil and military hospitals, the institute will offer all curative medicine services to Jordanians working in both the public service sector, as well as the private sector.

The Ministry of Health, which has been offering these services, will only be responsible for providing preventive medicine services and drawing up all policies related to them.

A number of deputies expressed the same concerns as the JMA doctors in a memorandum they sent to the Senate Legal Committee five days before the law was endorsed.

Both sides expressed their concern that the project might focus more on making profits rather than health services, and that the citizens would have to bear more financial burden, since the majority of revenues for the institute would be generated from services offered to the public, as well as allocations made to the body in the annual general budget.

Parliament's present four-year term ends on Jan. 15, 1988, but a Royal Decree could extend its term by one or two years. If not, general elections must be called before the end of this year.

According to Article 2/68 of the Constitution, general elections have to be held four months before Parliament's present four year term ends. If elections were not held before the end of the term, or have been delayed due to any reasons, the present Parliament will remain in power until a new body has been elected.

Labour market needs to be restructured, minister says

AMMAN (J.T.) — The nature of the labour market in Jordan, which exports and imports workers, warrants a reorganisation of the work force in the Kingdom, entailing training workers for new skills and more efficiency, Minister of Labour Khaled Haj Hassan said here Wednesday.

Addressing a ceremony for the graduation of a new batch of apprentices from the Ministry of Labour and Social Development's Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) centres, Mr. Haj Hassan said that Jordan is presently involved in plans for recruiting and training its work force, which will form the basis for the country's economic and social development. Trained Jordanians, he said, will also be useful in assisting the development of other Arab countries.

Referring to VTC centres, the minister said that they produced well-trained people for the country's service, as well as offering courses for workers in private companies, and training courses for instructors in various industries.

The VTC centres offered training courses to 18,000 apprentices in the last five-year national development plan; plans have been laid for providing courses for 30,000 others in the present five-year plan, the minister noted.

The director of the VTC centre at Sahab, where the graduation took place, spoke at the ceremony and gave further details about the training courses for Jordanian youth. The ceremony was also addressed by one of the graduates and a representative of the private sector.

Towards the end of the ceremony, the minister distributed diplomas to the 427 graduates, who came from three VTC centres in Hassa, Sahab, and Qweimeh, and also gave special awards to those who excelled in their courses.

The ceremony was attended by VTC Director General Dr. Munther Al Masri and the directors of the three centres, as well as the relatives of the graduates. Altogether, 3,200 students will graduate from VTC centres during 1987.

ARAMCO donates \$220,000 to UNRWA

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mr. Jamal Sarayrah, representative of ARAMCO in Jordan Wednesday presented a cheque for \$220,000 to Mr. E.J. Saaf, director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in Jordan.

The amount represents ARAMCO's contribution towards UNRWA's university scholarship and vocational training programmes in 1987.

ARAMCO contributes yearly to UNRWA for these programmes which benefit Palestine refugee children.

U.N. urban planning expert meets with Zarqa mayors

ZARQA (Petra) — A United Nations expert on urban planning held a meeting in Zarqa Wednesday with mayors of four towns in Zarqa Governorate to assess their plans for the coming three years.

The expert, who is being employed by the Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs and the Environment met with the heads of municipal councils of Zarqa, Hashemieh, Sukhach and Ruseifa.

He said that the purpose of the meeting is to review regional plans as part of a comprehensive study to find solutions for problems frequently encountered by the municipalities.

The Zarqa mayor spoke at the meeting outlining a three-phase plan for developing services in Zarqa at the cost of JD 8,604 million. He said the plan entails building roads, appropriating land for projects, constructing the infrastructure for public services, and setting up gardens, parks, shopping centres, handicraft zones, and carparks. The plan also provides for building stores and a slaughter house, and purchasing vehicles for the municipality.

The mayor of Ruseifa said that a total of JD 1,083 million will be spent on projects that include opening roads, building a bridge, setting up a public library, purchasing machinery and vehicles, and setting up handicraft and industrial zones.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan reviews a new batch of People's Army recruits in Ma'an Wednesday (Petra photo)

Prince Hassan graduates People's Army recruits

MA'AN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan patronised Wednesday the graduation ceremony for the first batch of the People's Army conscripts in Ma'an Governorate as part of the Kingdom's celebration of the Hijri (Islamic) new year which began Tuesday.

Addressing the graduates, Prince Hassan paid tribute to the new batch for their activities and efforts in defence of the nation.

He said that responsible citizenship lies in sound and comprehensive education for all citizens from the beginning school level.

He said that "we should all shoulder the common responsibility towards our homeland and show that we all have the ability to be innovative and creative."

Prince Hassan also added that the People's Army makes a vital contribution to the Armed Forces.

Ma'an Governor Eid Al Qatari

neh earlier delivered a speech in which he welcomed the Crown Prince and the role played by the Ma'an citizenry during the Great Arab Revolt. He also stressed the importance of the People's Army in supporting the Armed Forces with qualified and well-trained personnel.

The People's Army commander also pointed out the historical importance of Ma'an from the Islamic conquest to the Great Arab Revolt.

The graduates then conducted various military exercises and competitions. The Crown Prince distributed prizes to the winners at the end of the celebration.

The graduation ceremony was attended by the Armed Forces assistant chief-of-staff, a number of high-ranking army officers, directors of government departments in the governorate, heads of local councils, as well as tribal leaders in Ma'an Governorate.

U of J celebrates silver jubilee by expanding rolls

By Nermeen Murad Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — On the 25th anniversary of its establishment, the University of Jordan has plans to extend its higher education opportunities to 5,000 students in various fields by 1990, the university president, Abdul Salam Al Majali, said Wednesday.

Dr. Majali said that Jordan, in its capacity as an exporter of highly qualified manpower to neighbouring countries, may require the skills of 150,000-160,000 people with doctorates in the coming few years.

Studies are also being conducted to assess the possibility of introducing a general education bachelor of arts degree to those interested in widening their general knowledge, rather than following a specialised career, Dr. Majali said.

"The programme is especially beneficial for women who do not want to learn a particular trade since our tradition still does not require women to be the bread winners," he said.

At a press conference held at the university Wednesday, Dr. Majali told journalists that because Jordan is relatively small in size, population, and low in natural resources, and because the challenges facing Jordan are larger than its capabilities, (he cited Israel as the biggest of these challenges) education is considered by both the leadership and the people of Jordan to be of paramount importance to the success of the country.

Dr. Majali added that education is also the "biggest industry in Jordan."

He also pointed out that, "the expenses of the university are collected through taxes paid by citizens of Jordan, which are directly paid into the university, without going into the government's budget first."

Dr. Majali further explained that these taxes pay for 70 per cent of the university's expenses, while 20 per cent comes from student's fees, and 10 per cent from donations made by individuals and organisations. He noted, "this university is the least costly in the world; until this day, the university has only spent JD 140 million."

Dr. Majali discussed the freedom of choice extended to the students at the university. "As soon as a student is accepted into the university, he or she has the choice of the number of hours he wants to take per semester and, to a certain extent, which professor he would like to take the course with," he said.

Cooperation was cited by Dr. Majali as one of the valuable elements of a student's life at the university. "The university is a consolidated element. We try to establish a unity of thought among the students, so we do not isolate the different colleges. All students meet in one library and one restaurant," he said.

Dr. Majali also discussed the programme initiated by the university three years ago, whereby three outstanding students are chosen from each college to meet

every week with a decision-maker in Jordan for discussion, exchange of ideas, and increased awareness.

The same group is sent to a different Arab country each winter break, for two weeks, to have talks with decision-makers there. Each summer break, they are also sent to a European country to go through the same process.

As for the controversial issue of the tawjidi grades as the deciding element for entrance into the University of Jordan, Dr. Majali admitted that, until today, these grades are the only admission method that is practical for a university that is young and in the process of establishing itself.

"One must not forget that we are only 25 years old," he said.

A total of 14,681 applicants have already applied this year to the University of Jordan, out of which, 4,936 have tawjidi averages higher than 85 per cent, and 1,979 students with averages above 90 per cent. The university will only be able to accept 2,300 students for undergraduate studies and another 700 for post-graduate studies. Eight applicants had averages higher than 99 per cent.

For the medical school alone, 1,091 applicants have applied, all of whom have averages higher than 85 per cent. Dr. Majali noted that the faculty would be able to accept only 50 students.

Regarding scientific research at the university, and the prospect of doing more, Dr. Majali pointed out that it is difficult for research to be successful in an "environment which doesn't believe in scientific research."

On open universities as a way to provide education to the large numbers who want to continue their higher education in Jordan, Dr. Majali stressed that "mental interaction between a student and his teacher is more beneficial and solid than that between a mind and a book. That is where the advantage of pursuing higher education through an open university is at a disadvantage."

Jordanian-Iraqi firm to study joint mining, chemical projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Iraq signed a programme Wednesday for the Jordanian-Iraqi Industries Company (JIIC) which includes projects to be implemented in the two countries in the coming year.

The programme provides for the joint company to study recommendations passed by its board of directors over the past two years. These recommendations outline a number of schemes designed to bring about industrial and economic integration between Jordan and Iraq.

The programme also endorses the company's plan for the coming year, and gives final approval for detailed studies of projects in mining and chemicals which are to be implemented in the next phase.

The programme was signed by Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher and Iraqi Minister of Industry Hatem Abdul Rashid, in the presence of senior aides.

The signing of the programme followed three days of talks by the company's general assembly and side meetings between the two ministers.

Mr. Abdul Rashid left Amman after the signing ceremony. He was seen off at the Queen Alia International Airport by Dr. Muasher and other officials.

Dr. Muasher said later that Jordanian-Iraqi relations are exemplary and reflect the ideal economic cooperation between two brotherly states. He said that both countries are continually developing their cooperation in trade, coordinating their plans in industry, and carrying out joint ventures through the company.

The Baghdad-based company was set up three years ago with a capital of JD 20 million, shared equally by the Jordanian and Iraqi governments. Last year it purchased the Jordanian tomato paste factory and an Iraqi plant for pickling vegetables.

Before Mr. Abdul Rashid departed, he met with heads of Jordanian chambers of industry and commerce, and briefed them on the Iraqi economy, which he said provides a greater role for the private sector in helping to stimulate the national economy.

He also spoke about the close cooperation between Jordan and Iraq in implementing joint projects, and ensuring sufficient supplies of raw and primary materials for industries in the two countries, via transactions conducted by Jordanian merchants and businessmen.

The Iraqi government has re-

cent, passed a number of economic decisions to encourage Arab investment in Iraq, Mr. Abdul Rashid added.

At the meeting, Mr. Hamdi Al Tabbaa, president of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, spoke about aspects of cooperation between Jordan and Iraq. Prospects for Jordanian merchants and businessmen to contribute to the development of trade between the two countries were also reviewed at the meeting.

In another development, a committee set up by the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee opened a meeting here Wednesday to review resolutions made by the committee at its seventh meeting.

Mr. Mohammad Saqqaf, under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, led Jordan's delegation, while the Iraqi side was headed by Mr. Usama Abdul Razzak, under secretary of the Ministry of Industry.

The committee began by discussing issues related to trade, transport, and communications. They then discussed the problems impeding industrial coordination, which is being conducted through the JIIC.

The Jordanian side includes representatives from the ministries of industry, transport, and energy, as well as participants from the Central Bank of Jordan.



Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher and Iraqi Minister of Industry Hatem Abdul Rashid sign next year's programme for the Jordanian-Iraqi Industries Company (JIIC) Wednesday (Petra photo)

Khayyat holds religious services for new year

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs held a religious ceremony Wednesday at the Grand Hussein Mosque in Amman on the occasion of the Hijri (Islamic) new year. The Hijri new year marks the beginning of the year 1408 of the Muslim calendar.

Speaking at the outset of the celebration, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat called on Muslims to unite and adhere to the Islamic faith as the only way to liberate Palestine.

Dr. Khayyat also hailed the steadfastness of the Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories in the face of Israeli occupation.

The journey of Prophet Mohammad to Medina was a journey of reform and liberation which changed the course of history and saved Muslims from monophiles, backwardness and divisions, Dr. Khayyat said.

The ministry under secretary, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, outlined the significance and meanings of the Prophet Mohammad's journey (Hijra) and said that adherence to Islam was the only road to victory.

The celebration was attended by senior ministry officials and other people.

Trade with Iraq expected to reach \$800m mark

BAGHDAD (Petra) — A bulletin issued by the economic attache at the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad outlined the type of goods exported by Jordan to Iraqi markets, as well as the development of trade between the two countries.

The bulletin said that among the goods which Iraqi imports from Jordan are: feed concentrates, table eggs, pharmaceutical products, chemical detergents, woolen and cotton cloth, ball-point pens, and plastic products.

This year additional Jordanian products made ready for export to Iraq include: plastic covers and greenhouses for crops, electrical appliances, sanitary equipment, pottery, metal pipes, heaters, petrochemical products, irrigation pipes, pesticides, cigarettes, alcoholic drinks, table salt, insulation materials, rock wool, and bath taps.

According to the bulletin, the volume of trade between Jordan and Iraq has been on the rise and is expected to reach the \$800 million level. It said that the increase and the diversification of goods exchanged by the two countries fall in line with resolutions adopted by the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee, which met in Baghdad last year and agreed on ways to promote trade and economic ties between the two countries.

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FORUM HOTELS INTERNATIONAL

NEWS IN BRIEF

Air cargo committee ends meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of 10 Arab airlines, members of the Arab Air Cargo Organisation (AACO) air cargo committee, concluded a meeting here Wednesday. They discussed matters related to an Arab air cargo strategy and tariffs among Arab countries. Participants also discussed the new tariffs for air travel between the Middle East and Europe, as well as enforcement of agreements and regulations made by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Majali tours southern police departments

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali made trips to Karak, Ma'an and Aqaba in southern Jordan Wednesday to inspect police departments. He visited rehabilitation centres and driving licence departments affiliated with police departments. Lt.-Gen. Majali discussed with heads of these departments issues pertaining to their operations and new plans engineered by the Public Security Department to promote the work of police force in Jordan.

JUST chief returns from U.S. visit

IRBID (Petra) — President of the Jordanian University of Science and Technology (JUST) Kamel Al Ajlouni returned home Wednesday after a working visit to the U.S. Dr. Ajlouni's three-day visit was aimed at bolstering relations between his university and U.S. universities.

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Lest the superpowers forget

EVEN though Soviet leader Gorbachev has ruled out recently an early summit with President Reagan during the forthcoming General Assembly of the United Nations, it seems a safe assumption that the superpower leaders will hold a summit in the coming months to crown the positive negotiations on the elimination of medium-range missiles by signing a treaty on these weapons. The Arab World will most certainly share the international rejoice on that anticipated momentous occasion, but will be grieved to note that the foremost conflict in the Middle East will not figure highly, if at all, on the agenda of the two most powerful leaders.

Yet, the blame for this apparent downgrading of the Palestinian conflict is truly of our own. To begin with, we have wantonly allowed the war in the Gulf to perpetuate itself by failing to stand solidly behind Iraq during the past seven years. The offshoot of this Arab oscillation was that it allowed the Gulf war to continue unabated, to the extent that it has overshadowed every other major conflict in our region. And, further downgrading the prospects for an effective resolution of the Palestinian conflict, the Arab side has continued to speak with many voices on the issue, and, in that process it has confused both friend and foe on what it really desires. Thus, now one hears hardly a whisper of the peace process in the Middle East. Talk of the Middle East conflict resembles more the last breath of a dying man than the vigorous determination to resolutely come to grips with the crisis. Even Richard Murphy, the special U.S. envoy to the Middle East, appears to be diverting his attention to the seemingly more urgent crisis in the Gulf. Thus, he signals the rechanneling of U.S. concern away from the chronic Arab-Israeli conflict, which had hitherto occupied the attention of the U.S. policy makers. Now the Soviet Union appears to be joining the international bandwagon of numbness and insensitivity towards our Palestinian problem.

With the Palestinians under siege in Lebanon and in the occupied territories for so long, even Arabs have become cold and insensitive to the agony experienced by the Palestinians in diaspora. But, lest we become unduly saddened by the decision of the superpowers and the international community to put our Palestinian conflict on hold, if not in deep freeze, we must remember that it is Arab action that will resurrect our conflict and place it back on the agenda of the superpowers.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Another resolution on paper

WHEN the United Nations Security Council issued its Resolution 598 demanding an end to the Iran-Iraq war, we feared that this resolution would remain only on paper and could be turned into a mere subject for further consultations and statements. We feared that the resolution on the Gulf conflict would be given the same treatment as all the resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict; and we expressed fear that non-implementation of the new resolution would do harm to the credibility of the United Nations. Tuesday, the Arab foreign ministers ended a meeting in Tunis by issuing a call to the Security Council urging it to implement Resolution 598. But this call would not serve more than a first step in a long series of consultations and statements. We do not expect the U.N. and the international community to take our call seriously since many of the Arab states are not serious in their backing for Iraq or for the implementation of the council resolution. Our call would fall on deaf ears in the United Nations since our Arab states themselves have failed to take a unanimous stand with regard to the implementation of the resolution and did not decide on boycotting the Iranian regime economically and politically despite the fact that the danger and the Iranian threats have reached our doorsteps. We have to understand also that U.S. and Western intervention in the Gulf would eventually invite rivalry among major world powers — not to protect our rights but indeed for the sake of defending their own interests. These major powers are not really concerned with stopping the Gulf war as long as it does not affect their own interests. What they really want is a continuation of the bloodshed in Iraq and Iran and at the same time sufficient guarantees to ensure the continuous flow of Gulf oil to their nations.

Al Dustour: Hopes for Arab harmony

ARAB foreign ministers have adopted in Tunis the minimum resolution expected from Arab states vis-a-vis the current Arab situation and the Gulf conflict. The ministers reached a resolution with which they voiced the Arab Nation's support for Iraq and the rest of the Arab Gulf states in the face of Iran's threats but stopped short of any practical step that can manifest such support. The foreign ministers issued a final communiqué expressing the Arab Nation's backing for Iraq in its legitimate defence of its sovereignty and its territory; and also for its endeavours to reach peace with Iran. They also renewed their total rejection of Iran's occupation of any part of Iraqi territory and demanded that the United Nations Security Council execute its resolution 598 to end the war. This resolution, though positive, can be described as a repetition of previous Arab League resolutions in which the Arab countries expressed their general views but without giving proper attention to or taking serious effort in dealing with the new realities which are serious and require immediate action. The situation in the Gulf is now totally different from that which prevailed when the Iran-Iraq war began seven years ago, and this should have been taken into consideration by all Arab countries participating in the Tunis meeting. However, the decision to keep the foreign ministers meeting open until Sept. 30, a deadline given to Iran to stop the war and abide by the U.N. resolution, gives us some hope and optimism.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel has its plans

ISRAEL has been massing troops and tanks along the Lebanese border in clear preparations for yet another aggression which this time could include the Bekaa region where the Syrian forces are stationed. All indications are that the Israelis are putting the final touches to a new plan for incursion into Lebanon. They are benefitting from the concern being raised worldwide about the situation in the Gulf and the on-going Iran-Iraq war and are hoping to launch a new adventure across their northern borders. At the same time Israel's leaders want to divert Israeli public attention from the current inter-party disputes and various local problems to external issues. A war against the Arabs, the Israeli leaders believe, can serve as the best means for absorbing internal discontent over inflation, high cost of living and other problems plaguing the Israeli society.

England and the U.S. in Palestine: A Comparison

This is the first part of an article reprinted from the Washington-based The Link magazine.

By W.F. Abboushi

UNTIL World War I, there was no such political entity as Palestine; the people of Palestine considered themselves Syrian Arabs. Their territory, much of it part of the Beirut province, had been under the Turkish Ottoman Empire for the previous four centuries.

In December 1917, the British army occupied Jerusalem, and by September 1918 the whole country was under British control. Until 1920 a military administration ran the country under General Edmund Allenby who had led the British forces into Jerusalem.

At first, the British divided Palestine into thirteen administrative districts; in 1919, this number was reduced to ten. Each district had a British military governor assisted by mostly British officials, along with a few Arabs. By law the military administration was required to preserve the status quo which existed under

the previous Turkish administration until the international legal status of Palestine could be determined and a permanent civilian administration established.

In April 1920, the Allied Council of Four met in San Remo to divide the Ottoman Empire. Britain was assigned the mandatory power in Palestine. In July 1920, the military administration of Palestine was replaced by a civilian administration under a British high commissioner. The international status of the country was not determined until July 24, 1922, when the Council of the League of Nations approved the Mandate Agreement for Palestine, effective Sept. 29, 1923.

From then on, England's experience in Palestine was one of mounting frustration. The Arabs were almost in constant rebellion, while the Zionists were often violently aggressive. In the 1930's and 40's many of the Zionists, including Menachem Begin and

Yitzhak Shamir, who later became prime ministers of Israel, used terrorism as a political weapon, killing innocent civilians in a number of bombings such as the one in July 1938, when 74 Arabs were killed in a fruit market in the city of Haifa, and in 1946, when over 90 people were killed in a blast that brought down a section of the King David Hotel. In 1947 England decided to cut its losses and, in April of that year, it turned the whole problem over to the fledgling United Nations.

At this point the United States took over where the United Kingdom left off — with much the same results. Today Americans give away billions of their tax dollars each year in support of a Middle East policy which earns them the growing resentment of most Middle Easterners.

How did England, then the United States, two powerful nations, incur such hatred in an area so vital to their geostrategic interests? The answers are similar for both countries, for despite their different political systems, striking parallels exist in the way British and American politicians

handled the Palestine issue. British politicians, like their American counterparts, were quite sensitive to Jewish-Zionist influence, but were torn between domestic interests which argued for a pro-Zionist policy and foreign interests which dictated a pro-Arab policy. Usually both countries responded to domestic interests when these interests served their own self-interests.

Within British and American politics, the executive branch generally was more sensitive to the country's foreign interests than the legislative branch; consequently, it was the executive branch which tended to have an even banded Middle Eastern policy. Parliament, on the other hand, like the U.S. Congress, was far more susceptible to Zionist pressures. In both countries, the legislative body most often served as a pressure group to deter the executive branch from adopting policies that were mildly pro-Arab, not strongly pro-Zionist, or ones critical of Zionist policies.

In the British system, the House of Lords was far less susceptible to Zionist influence than

the House of Commons. Appointed rather than elected, members of the House of Lords were experienced people who spoke their minds with a fierce independence. Members of the House of Commons were elected and thereby open to influence. Arabs fared better in the upper house, where speeches were more objective, than in the lower house, where rhetoric and demagoguery abounded. [One thinks of Herbert Samuel, a British Jew and the first High Commissioner of Palestine (1920-1925) who helped bring about the Balfour Declaration of 1917. Yet, in the 1930's, Samuel defended the Arabs in the House of Lords and even opposed the creation of a sovereign Jewish state].

The U.S. Senate is nothing like the British House of Lords. Indeed, within the American system, the Senate is the most pro-Zionist governmental body, more pro-Zionist than the House of Representatives and the White House. The reasons, again, are clear: the British upper house is not elected, its American counterpart is; the Senate has a smaller membership than either the British or American lower houses; and Senate members serve six years as opposed to four for the British House of Lords and two for the U.S. Congress.

Apart from these structural-procedural differences, however, both countries have essentially representative systems of governing. Because of this, Zionists could employ similar techniques in both England and the United States. By putting together an efficient organization and a constituency far more powerful than their numbers would indicate, they manipulated the democratic process to make it respond to the self-interests of politicians. Party politics and the electoral system were the vehicles by which they reached politicians, rewarding their friends and punishing their enemies. And the media was the vehicle they manipulated to reach the public, believing that in the final analysis public opinion was the decisive arbitrator of politics and interests.

What follows is an account of how England and America got bogged down in Palestine.

Broken promises: British-Arab agreements

DURING the First World War, the British sought to enlist Arab support in their fight against the Ottoman Turks. Beginning in 1915, eight letters were exchanged between Sir Henry McMahon, representing the British, and Sherif Hussein of Hejaz, representing the Arabs. In a letter dated Aug. 30, 1915, Great Britain promised Hussein:

In earnest of this [Arab military support], we hereby confirm to you the declaration of Lord Kitchener [then British secretary of war] as communicated to you through "Ali Effendi" in which was manifested our desire for the independence of the Arab countries and their inhabitants and our readiness to approve an Arab Caliphate upon its proclamation. (1)

The McMahon-Hussein Agreement, based substantially on the Aug. 30th promise, was concluded in 1916; the Arabs at once revolted against the Turkish in a crucial military campaign made famous by the legendary Lawrence of Arabia.

Following the war, His Majesty's government acted as though the agreement never existed. For 23 years, it laid buried in secret archives of the British Foreign Office. This action represented the second time the British had betrayed the Arabs.

The first instance occurred in relation to the Sykes-Picot Agreement. The British Government, which wanted to enlist Russia and the United States in the war, sent a memorandum in 1915 to the Russian minister of foreign affairs, M. Sazanoff, expressing the need to mobilise the support of a majority of the world's Jews for the Allied cause. The memorandum proposed the idea of an agreement to promote Jewish colonisation of Palestine in competition with the Arab population.

Representing the British Government was Mark Sykes, assistant secretary to the war cabinet, who suggested to the Russians that Zionism might prove the solution to their "Jewish problem" within Russia. (2) Next, Sykes persuaded M. Georges Picot, representing the French Government, that placement of the Holy Land under an administration favourable to the Zionists would draw the United States via American Jewry action to the Allied cause. Consequently, in 1916, with the ink hardly dry on the McMahon-Hussein agreement, England, France and Russia signed the Sykes-Picot agreement, effectively internationalising Palestine and negating the promises made to the Arabs.

A year later, Russia went Bolshevik, withdrew from the war and made public the secret agreement, which, needless to say, shocked the Arabs, who were continuing to fulfil their part of the bargain.

England still faced the problem of how to get the United States



Lord Balfour and world Zionist leader Chaim Weizman in Tel Aviv in 1925

into the war. In April 1917, Lord Arthur Balfour, then secretary of state for foreign affairs, came to the United States. Balfour was convinced that if His Majesty's government gave assurances that the return of the Jews to Palestine had become an integral part of British policy, American opinion might favour entry into the war. (3) Other factors being relevant, on Nov. 2, 1917, Balfour, then the British Foreign Secretary, sent a letter to Lord Rothschild, a leading British Zionist, declaring:

His Majesty's Government view with favour of the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country. (4)

Obviously, the Balfour Declaration conflicted with both the McMahon pledges to Hussein, which regarded Palestine as part of an independent Arab state, and with the Sykes-Picot agreement, which stipulated that the

four Declaration. The territory, more than three times the size of Palestine, became known as Transjordan, later Jordan, and was granted independence in 1928.

Another minor change that disturbed the Zionists related to their desire to insert in the agreement references to the "Jewish Commonwealth" and "the right of the Jews to reconstruction of Palestine as a national home." Obviously, the Zionists were trying to expand British commitments to Jews beyond the Balfour Declaration. The British insisted on the language of the declaration, however.

The Arabs considered the agreement most unfair. They felt the British were ignoring them almost completely, and they resented Zionist involvement in the drafting of an agreement to which they, the Zionists, were not legally a party. Furthermore, foreign born and non-Palestinians, the Zionists at best represented only a minority in Palestine.

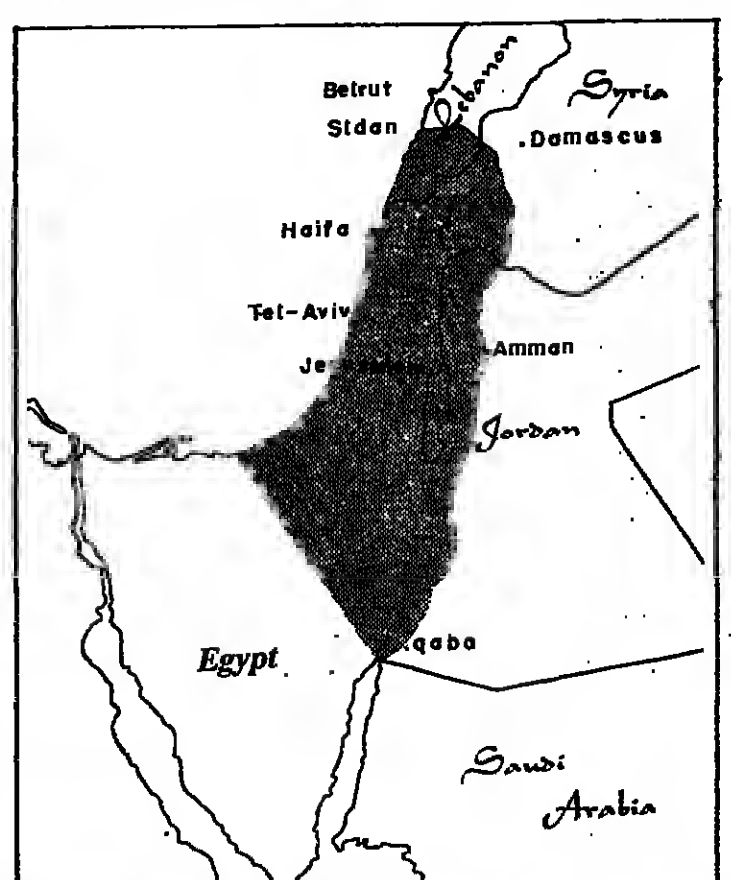
Also, the Mandate Agreement contained no direct reference to the Arab people of Palestine. The Arabs were referred to as "the other sections," an evasion similar to the Balfour Declaration's "non-Jewish communities." Such references were insulting to the Arabs as their spokesmen often indicated, for at the time the Arabs were a vast majority of the population of Palestine.

Moreover, there were other provisions that irritated the Arabs. A "Jewish Agency" was to be "recognised as a public body for the purposes of advising and cooperating with the Administration of Palestine in such economic, social and other matters as may affect the establishment of the Jewish national home...." No comparable Arab body was recognised despite the fact that the Arabs were a vast majority in the country. In 1929, the Jewish Agency was allowed to tax Jews. No doubt, the small Jewish community in Palestine was, in the 1920's, organising itself as a quasi government. Some believed it was a "state within a state."

Article 2 of the agreement specified two responsibilities for the British Mandate. The first required it to "place the country under such political, administrative and economic conditions as will secure the establishment of the Jewish National Home." The second required "the development of self-governing institutions" in Palestine and the safeguarding of the civil and religious rights of its inhabitants.

Article 6 required "the administration of Palestine" to "facilitate Jewish immigration under suitable conditions and shall encourage... close settlement by Jews on the land...." However, this obligation was to be fulfilled "while ensuring that the rights and position of other sections of the population are not prejudiced." Articles 2 and 6 became controversial in subsequent discussions of the Palestine problem. Briefly, Articles 2 raises questions about the extent of British responsibilities in Palestine. Are the responsibilities stated in the article compatible? Are they equal? Article 6 raised the question of whether the development of the Jewish Home was compatible with the "rights and position" of the Arabs of Palestine. Also, did the guarantee of "rights and positions" include the majority "position" of the Arabs? For example, was the Jewish national home limited by the Arabs' majority "position"?

The Arabs believe both the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate Agreement violated their right to self-determination as guaranteed by Article 22 of the League's Covenant. The Anglo-French Declaration of 1918, and President Wilson's fourteen-point programme. Self-government, in their opinion, was meaningless without recognition of their



The World Zionist Organisation's proposal for a Jewish homeland in Palestine submitted to the Paris peace conference in 1919.

majority status in the country. A Jewish national home could not be developed in harmony with the guarantee of self-government of Article 2, without violating their "position" as guaranteed by Article 6.

Before the League of Nations could approve the Palestine Mandate, the House of Lords discussed it on June 21, 1922. (8) during which Lord John Islington of the Liberal Party submitted an important motion stipulating:

"That the Mandate for Palestine in its present form is unacceptable to this House, because it directly violates the pledges made by His Majesty's Government to the people of Palestine in the declaration of October 1915 [McMahon's pledges to Hussein] and the declaration of November 1918 [Allenby's Proclamation], and is, as at present framed, opposed to the sentiments and wishes of the great majority of the people of Palestine; that, therefore, its acceptance by the council of the league of nations should be postponed until such modifications have therein been effected as will comply with the pledges given by His Majesty's Government."

Islington believed that the establishment of the Jewish National Home on the basis of the present Mandate gives the Jewish minority in Palestine the power to dominate the Arab majority. He warned that the Mandate "if ratified... imposes on this country [Britain] the responsibility of trusteeship for a Zionist political predominance where 90 per cent of the population are non-Zionist and non-Jewish."

One of the most controversial issues involving Palestine had been the question of whether the Balfour Declaration contradicted British promises to the Arabs. Lord Islington believed it did:

"I cannot imagine any political interests exercised under greater safeguards than the political interests of the Arab population of Palestine. Every act of the Government will be jealously watched. The Zionist Organisation has no attributes of political powers. If it uses or usurps political powers, it is an act of usurpation."

For the Zionists, however, political colonisation was paramount, so for the next 30 years the Balfour Declaration would harass the British until, in 1948, they opted to pull out of Palestine altogether.

Notes:

1. Text in Jacob C. Hurewitz, ed., *Diplomacy in The Near and Middle East: A Documentary Record Vol. II (1914-1956)* (Princeton, New Jersey: Van Nostrand, 1965), p. 25.
2. The provisional agreement of this draft resulted from discussion early in December 1919 between Mr. Forbes Adam and Mr. Malkin for the Foreign Office and Mr. Cohen for the Zionist Organisation. Draft Mandate for Palestine, December 11, 1919, in Documents of British Foreign Policy 1919-1939, Vol. IV, 1919, p. 571.
3. Text in Palestine Government, *A Survey of Palestine, 1945-1946*, Vol. I, pp. 2-11.
4. Quotes from the discussions in the House of Lords come from *Parliamentary Debates, Lords*, Vol. 50, 1922, Cols. 994-1084.
5. For a further history of the British promises to Hussein, see W.F. Abboushi, *The Angry Arabs* (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press), 1974, pp. 102 ff.
6. Alan R. Taylor, *Prelude To Israel: An Analysis of Zionist Diplomacy 1897-1947* (London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1961), p. 17.
7. Doreen Ingrams, *Palestine Papers 1917-1922: Seeds of Conflict* (New York: George Braziller, 1973), pp. 7-18.
8. Ibid.



A ship smuggling Jews into Palestine in the 1930s

هنا من الزمان

No fuel, no electricity, but expatriate tourists vote Lebanon a hit

By Lucien George

Mohsen Za'al, the Arab League's assistant secretary-general for economic affairs, visited Beirut on Aug. 14 where he discussed Lebanon's critical economic situation with Lebanese officials. The Lebanese pound has lost 70 per cent of value against the U.S. dollar over the last six months. Lebanese leaders want the question put on the agenda of the Arab Monetary Fund meeting in Tunis on Aug. 23 and taken at the meeting of Arab finance ministers on Sept. 2, also in Tunis.

IRUT — That's it: the U.S. dollar is now worth almost 250 Lebanese pounds (LL). When fighting began in 1975, the dollar was worth LL2.50. Normal, no doubt, after 12 years of fighting. Yet in the spring of 1983, barely four years after eight years of war, the dollar was still equal to 3.70. That was the time of war prosperity. In the end, the Lebanese today tell themselves a exchange rate of LL85 to the dollar on Jan. 1, 1987 was par: these same people who fought at the time it was bell, and they are now wondering if genuine anguish whether they will not come a time when they will dream of a dollar at LL250.

A country is not a rate of exchange, Lebanon is. The proof? Everything is seizing up. The Bank of Lebanon, whose governor has warned that its foreign currency reserves have dipped to a dangerous low, cannot offer the credits necessary for purchasing fuel. No fuel, no transport, but also no electricity, no factories, no hospitals, no bakeries. The collapse will not come today, but seems certain to do so tomorrow. The running down of stocks should result in various economic sectors grinding to a halt sometime between the end of September and the end of November. To buy a little more time, Electricite du Liban has already drawn up a

preliminary power rationing programme of six hours a day which is bound to become worse. As for hospitals, plants, supermarkets and other businesses, they may well have their own power plants, but they do not have the fuel to run them.

The economic paralysis comes on top of a political paralysis and they compound each other. "We're headed straight for disaster," chorus all the ministers, who do not govern, and all the militia units controlling bits and pieces of Lebanese national territory, but nobody of course admits to the least responsibility in this state of affairs.

Even before the problem of energy supplies became so acute (power cuts and gas station queues are routine), galloping inflation which reached 100 per cent in 1986 and as much in the first half of 1987 was threatening the Lebanese citizen in his everyday life.

Poverty is gradually making inroads among families as a minimum wage, which in 1983 — the last "normal" year — was equivalent to two-thirds of the guaranteed minimum wage (SMIC) in France, slips to one-fortieth of

the SMIC. But the dividing line is constituted not so much by wages as by the "dollarisation" or "non-dollarisation" of all or part of each family unit's resources. This is the real yardstick of measuring the financial situation in Lebanon today. Almost half the population may be estimated to have links with a foreign currency and, as a result, is saved, if it is not becoming richer. The beneficiaries are in three categories — Those who themselves have foreign currencies: 150,000 to 200,000 foreign currency accounts have been opened in Lebanon, not to mention accounts abroad belonging to Lebanese. — Those getting cash remittances from abroad, however small they may be: a family receiving 500 French francs, £50 a month from abroad make ends meet with local resources; with a monthly remittance of 1,000 French francs, it does quite nicely. Such transfers were pointless three years ago, or even a year ago, because they were too small. Today, they are changing the lives of their recipients and justify the sacrifices of expatriate Lebanese. It is estimated that between 15 to 20 per cent of the Lebanese are in this category and receive remittances from Africa, America, the Gulf states and even Europe.

Trades linked to the sale of foodstuffs, where the turnover is keeping pace, if not with the exchange rate, at least with the rate of inflation, and craftsmen whose services have suddenly acquired additional value. In these days when everything in Beirut is repairable.

What about the other half of the population? It is becoming impoverished, digging into its last resources when there are any left, or is already quite simply destitute. But as this is not a conventional Third World situation with a privileged two to three per cent of the population facing vast hungry masses, the equilibrium is still holding. But for how long? Is not Lebanon a land of every paradox and every accommodation? Does not this country which will soon run out of fuel stocks possess a colossal fortune valued at between \$30 billion and \$40 billion? And while three-quarters of this wealth happens to be abroad, are not Beirut banks holding over \$3 billion in private accounts?

True, many businesses are potentially bankrupt but have not some of these businesses aided by the discovery of export markets and the devaluation of their debts in Lebanese pounds, abruptly wiped out their debts? "Three years ago, I didn't even dream of covering the interest on my debts," said a furniture-maker who had been thinking big. "Today, I don't owe a pound to the banks." His furniture went to markets in West Germany with its deutchmarks.

Wartime Lebanon, in the 13th year of the war, has even discovered its tourists — Lebanese. They are not of course "internal tourists, impoverished Lebanese in a cut up and compartmentalised Lebanon, but these newly rich Lebanese coming from abroad to spend a more pleasant and less expensive summer here: 10,000 French francs bought LL200,000 at the start of the summer, it is worth LL350,000 today, and who knows what it will be tomorrow. ... They lord it on the beaches and in restaurants. Middle East Airlines has put in extra services to cope with the rush — Le Monde in the Guardian weekly.

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Randa Habib's Corner

Three birds with one shot

EMPTY cans of soft drinks are everywhere. People find them handy, and they take them in their picnics or their drives. Most of the time the empty cans get thrown out of the windows, or simply strewn around in picnic spots. Fortunately, the problem of this new pollution is beginning to solve itself these days. Three dealers in Amman are buying empty cans and recycling the metal to fabricate cooking pots and other utensils. So now the children have found a new occupation; pick up empty cans and sell them to the dealer. You can see them, especially in the outskirts of Amman, carrying a big plastic bag and collecting empty cans. This way, the children are generating their own income as well as cleaning the streets. Above all, the children and dealers are saving the country valued foreign exchange that would have otherwise been spent on importing aluminium and similar metals to produce cans.

This positive initiative came without any government directive or involvement of the factories that produce soft drinks. It is a process that took shape by itself for the general benefit. It calls for a similar attitude in other fields. Such initiatives should be encouraged.

What makes the Jewish lobby tick

The Lobby: Jewish Political Power and American Foreign Policy, by Edward Tivnan, Simon and Schuster, New York, 1987, \$19.95

WHEN America's United Jewish Appeal asked David Ben Gurion at the birth of Israel what the new state needed most, he replied: "What we need is Jews."

Israel did not get Jewish Americans in large numbers. But what it eventually did get was an almost unimaginable cornucopia of American dollars and diplomatic support. As Edward Tivnan observes, by 1986, "American support for Israel was at the highest level in history ...". Indeed, he might have said the highest level of support of any country at any time in the history of America. By 1986, Israel was routinely getting \$3 billion in annual economic and military aid, all of it in the form of non-repayable grants. Its economy was surviving mainly on this unsupervised U.S. aid and its place in international forums ranging from the U.N. to the International Atomic Energy Agency was secured only by U.S. backing.

Tivnan's lucid, lively and informative book is the record of how all this came about. Organised Jewish lobbying in Washington started modestly in the 1950s in reaction to the even-handed policies of the Eisenhower administration and a number of outrageous acts by Israel that needed special pleading: the bloody attack on Qibya, illegal diversion of the Jordan waters, start of the Suez war. The problem for Israel's supporters was that the "Arabists" in the State Department were familiar with the facts in the region and were thus less than persuadable about the justice of Israel's acts.

The shrewd tactic chosen by American Zionists was to bypass the State Department and aim its lobbying efforts directly at the more vulnerable members of Congress and the White House. Two organisations were formed: the conference of presidents of major American Jewish organisations to lobby the White House and the American Zionist Council of Public Affairs, which later became the notorious American Israeli Public Affairs Council, AIPAC, to lobby the Congress. It is AIPAC and its supporters that Tivnan spends most time with, and for good reason. The stunning success of Israel over the past decade to control Congress and avail itself of the U.S. treasury is largely due to the effectiveness of AIPAC and its influence over the American Jewish community.

The way AIPAC achieved the success is the most revealing part of Tivnan's story, for it involves what amounts to the abuse of democracy: intimidation of legislators, bully tactics on campuses, censorship, blackballing and a blatant disregard of U.S. national interests. Through all this, much of the American Jewish community remained distressingly mute in public, wherever its private reservations.

The core puzzle of Tivnan's book is how can Jewish-Americans with their enviable history in civil rights be so tolerant of the most flagrant of Israeli atrocities? Numbers of Jewish-Americans have deserted traditional liberal positions to justify Israel's actions, particularly its occupation, by embracing what would more accurately be called neo-fascism than neo-conservatism. Many continue to fail to see the harsh reality of what post-Begin Israel has already become — they see only Israel as the symbol of Zion.

This ostrich attitude in American Jewry has been increasingly noted by others too, most recently by Abba Eban, who probably contributed more to creating the image than anyone: "American Jews today are a little bit behind the reality here. They are still talking about an Israel that can never be wrong. After the Lebanon war American Jews were a bit like the chicken with its head cut off. They were still praising the Lebanon war when everyone in Israel was trying to get out of it."

Tivnan throws down the gauntlet by concluding with a particularly poignant series of challenges to the American Jewish community and its lobbyists: Is the community's pandering to Israel thwarting peace? Is its silence in the face of Israeli aggressions actually encouraging Israel to lose its way in the community of nations? Will AIPAC's success in controlling U.S. policy to favour Israel, oppose Arabs and subjugate Palestinians, eventually lead to a backlash of anti-Semitism in America — for Jews the most tolerant nation since Muslim Spain? Tivnan's is an informative, if disheartening, story, meticulously documented with and underlain with a forceful challenge to conscience — Donald Neff.

— Middle East International, London

CRC — humanity's light in the shadows of war

An ICRC press release

THE misery of war, so much like wherever they may be, darkens the daily news throughout the world. The only light, although perhaps unseen by distant viewers, is a glow of humanity for countless sufferers from all warring sides.

Imagine an ambulance racing through a shell-torn town, a doctor tending a wounded soldier, a nurse cradling a deathly ill child in her arms, a man handing out sacks of food to a starving crowd, a prisoner greeting a kindly visitor unknown to him ...

In all these scenes, the emblem of humanity is there: a Red Cross on a white ground often ringed by the words "International Committee, Geneva."

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is the founder-member of the universal humanitarian movement now including 144 national societies and their world federation, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The Green replaces the cross as the emblem in 24 Muslim countries. The international movement, however, is neutral in every respect and impartial towards all religions and political beliefs. The ICRC is primarily the

guardian of the humane "rules of war" in the Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols.

Created and established in Geneva, the ICRC is international only in relation to its field of activity and to the worldwide sources of its funds. Staffed by Swiss citizens, it is registered as a private institution under Swiss law — and is just as totally independent of the Swiss government as of all others.

National societies, with more than 250 million members, are active both in war and peace in their own countries. They frequently take part in international aid operations.

Their league, based in Geneva, coordinates world relief after natural disasters such as earthquakes. This is a major sector of its liaison role.

Legacy of a battle

Henry Dunant, of Geneva, originated the Red Cross movement nearly 130 years ago. On a visit to Italy in 1859, he saw the appalling carnage left by the Battle of Solferino on the very day when the allied armies of France and the Kingdom of Sardinia fought the army of Austria.

Figures vary, but some 6,000 men of the three armies were

killed and 42,000 were wounded on June 24. The death toll rose much higher in the next few weeks as tens of thousands fell ill from fever and fatigue.

Helped by local women and children, Dunant did what he could for some 600 of the wounded who reached nearby Castiglione. Most lay all night on the battlefield, with thirst and hunger adding to their agony. Military medical services were hopelessly inadequate.

Dunant, a businessman with charity work to his credit, was haunted by the horrors which he had seen. In 1862, he was inspired to write "A Memory of Solferino" and this had an immediate echo of approval in high places in many countries.

His idea was to form national relief societies to give care to the wounded in wartime, while an international convention would support their work.

A Swiss "Committee of Five" — including Dunant, and later to become the ICRC — was set up in Geneva.

The committee organised a conference in 1863 at which the representatives of 16 governments and four philanthropic societies laid the foundations of the Red Cross movement.

The Swiss government then

called a diplomatic conference in 1864 at which the plenipotentiaries of 12 governments signed the "Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field." Other states signed soon afterwards.

A key provision of the convention was that wounded or sick soldiers, whatever their nationality, would be cared for. Also, unguarded ambulances and military hospitals would be recognised as neutral and, as such, protected and respected by the belligerents.

A Red Cross on a white ground — the reverse of colours on the Swiss flag — was made the common emblem for aid to the wounded. Thus was born the universal movement of today.

Immense task

Over the years, international humanitarian law expanded and attained the four conventions of 1949 and the two additional protocols of 1977. This reflects a persistent effort to adapt the rules of changing types of warfare.

The conventions, covering international conflicts, are to protect and aid the wounded and sick of armed forces on land and at sea, to assure humane treatment for prisoners of war and to protect civilians in wartime.

The protocols supplement the conventions. One extends the definition of international conflicts to include self-determination fights against colonial domination, alien occupation and racist regimes. The other brings in non-international conflicts, such as guerrilla fighting by dissidents against government forces.

While almost every state in the world has ratified the conventions, acceptance of the protocols has so far been more limited, but the number of ratifications is gradually rising.

In time of international war, civil war or internal disturbances, the ICRC approaches the opposing sides as a neutral body seeking to assure protection and aid for civilian and military victims.

Its universally recognised right of initiative permits it to undertake any humanitarian action in line with its neutral and independent status.

The ICRC is concerned about the treatment of combatants taken prisoner and of civilian internees. From the moment of their capture or arrest, it seeks to improve their detention conditions.

Its delegates — as the ICRC calls its representatives — visit internment camps and prisons. Then, in a confidential report, they ask the detaining authorities to improve conditions whenever this is found necessary.

The ICRC can also be called upon to negotiate and organise the repatriation of prisoners and civilian internees, with priority for the gravely wounded and ill.

It acts in the interests of civilians in enemy territory or in occupied zones, striving to prevent injustices. Medical and material aid is given to those in urgent need.

Another task is to help civilians — often many thousands, sometimes even millions — driven by warfare to flee from their homes, penniless, hungry and sick.

The ICRC gives them the essentials of life, beginning with food and medical care. In many countries, special care is provided for the war disabled.

Through its Central Tracing Agency, the ICRC also makes every effort to restore broken links between the members of war-scattered families. The agency registers and transmits all available information about prisoners of war, interned civilians and those set free or repatriated. It seeks the missing and informs their families when they are found. It writes certificates attesting to captivity, illness or death. When ordinary communications are cut, the Agency forwards messages between civilians separated by events and between prisoners and their families.

Worldwide action

Whenever a conflict erupts, the ICRC stands ready to dispatch teams of delegates and emergency aid supplies to the spot. Logistics are speedily devised to fit the circumstances.

ICRC staff has increased rapidly in recent years to keep pace with the growing number of conflicts. Some 500 now work at



Henry Dunant (1828-1910) founder of the International Red Cross Geneva headquarters and another 500 in 36 delegations throughout the world, which have more than 2,000 local employees.

The summit organ of the ICRC is the committee itself, with up to 25 eminent Swiss members from many walks of life. The president is elected for a renewable four-year term, the maximum length of service being 12 years.

The committee meets in assembly about eight times a year to determine policy guidelines and supervise the whole range of ICRC activity. An executive board composed of the president, the vice-president and five committee members meets once a week to direct current affairs, together with top-ranking staff.

Funds for the ICRC come mainly from voluntary contributions by governments and national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies. A variety of other donations are also received.

Often unpredictable large-scale operations are funded through special appeals to governments and national societies. These bring in the extra money required for staff, transport, food, medicines and other relief supplies.

The world can take it for granted that the ICRC is on constant alert to do its utmost for victims of wars or internal conflicts wherever they break out.

Its watchword is to keep the more than century-old ideal of the Red Cross alive whenever a cry for mercy moves the human heart. Without that light, what would be left for the sufferers except despair?



ICRC hospital in Pakistan offering aid to victims of the Afghan war (photo by Thierry Gaudemann)

King receives Dag Hammarskjold Award for peace

(Continued from page 1)

important and crucial in the world," he said. "The situation in the Middle East is a time bomb that could go off at any time, and it has been going on for too long. His Majesty is well aware of that fact and of the necessity to find a definite peaceful solution."

Dr. Dirix stated that the Brussels-based academy works "for freedom, justice and peace in every country in the world. Whatever religious or political system a country may have, one must be free wherever one is, because we are all human beings."

"I am of the Muslim faith, and my Muslim name is Abdul Wahid; for me Islam is the symbol of peace in its teachings," he said.

Further discussing the academy's work, Dr. Dirix said that "we will never give an award to Israel, South Africa, or Chile. "We do not approve of the regime in Israel and South Africa because there the minority rules over the majority." As for Chile, he said, "the present head of government is a dictator."

"I will not even discuss Iran," he said. "It is an unspeakable matter. It is called fanaticism. It is not human."

The academy was set up one year after Dag Hammarskjold died in 1961. Two Italians, along with Hammarskjold's brother thought of setting up the academy in memory of Hammarskjold and his services. Since 1963, the

academy started giving out the annual Dag Hammarskjold Awards.

The academy gives out 12 awards in different categories. The Universal Merit for Peace, Cooperation and Solidarity is usually given to a head of state or head of government. Other awards cover diplomacy (usually given to ministers of foreign affairs, ambassadors or special envoys), culture, humanity, science and research, journalism and information and literature.

Dr. Dirix said the academy likes to select people "mostly from the Third World, especially the Non-Aligned Movement, because it is there that there are things to do."

The academy also likes "to do a lot for the African countries because it is against segregation, against apartheid," Dr. Dirix said.

The first person to receive the award was the late U.S. President John Kennedy. Subsequently the roster featured Winston Churchill, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Julius Nyerere, Indira Gandhi, Anwar Al Sadat, Philip Habib, Andrei Sakharov, Peter Ustinov, Henry Belafonte, Mother Teresa, and Bob Geldof.

Among organisations that have received the award are Amnesty International, the International Red Cross, and Doctors Without Frontiers.

Since the organisation accepts no money from any party or person, its expenses are covered by the annual fees of \$100 each paid by each of its 1,400 members. The members hold full-time jobs outside of the academy and offer voluntary work for the academy.

Dr. Dirix added that the members of the academy do not interfere in politics. They hold their own opinions but are not active in politics because "we do not like to be labelled," he said. "We try our best to be independent and to do the maximum we can."

Maksoud warns Iran to accept call

(Continued from page 1)

At the United Nations, diplomats said Tuesday Iran was stalling on the U.N. demand for a ceasefire in the Gulf war.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Jawad Larjani talked with Secretary General Perez de Cuellar for 75 minutes on

Monday and for almost two hours in a second meeting on Tuesday, but no progress was reported.

A high Western source said it was evident that Iran was still playing for time and unwilling to respond definitively to the Security Council's July 20 ceasefire demand.

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Syria edges Jordan in Asian handball

By Rania Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In a heated match Wednesday, the Syrian men's handball team scored a marginal victory of 22:18 over Jordan. Both teams displayed skill and high-level performance to the cheers of 2,000 capacity crowd.

Wednesday's result leaves the standings of the Jordanian and Syrian teams contingent on matches they are expected to play on Thursday against the Taipei team. Should Syria edge the Taipei team, it will be placed in 7th position, and Jordan will move to the 9th position if it loses.

The Jordanian and Syrian teams gave solid performances on Wednesday, with the Jordanians at the beginning playing a fast and cohesive game.

They gave a remarkably different performance than that against the Kuwaitis, executing their coordinated attack plans

effectively, and winning the first half of the game, leaving the Syrians trailing 11:8.

But the turning point came half way through the second half with a change in Syria's tactics and with the Jordanian team seemingly getting tired. The Syrian team played tougher on the defence, and managed to make use of fastbreak steals, registering a four point lead till the end of the game.

In a rather lacklustre game earlier Wednesday, the Palestinian team beat Nepal 32:21 (and a score of 18:9 by the end of the first half).

Lacking the essential skills and

fitness that otherwise could have enabled them to qualify for higher positions, both teams gave modest performance that placed Nepal in the 11th position and Palestine in the 10th.

The Palestinian team used a 6:0 defence formation, occasionally moving into a 5:1. Its defence was incohesive initially, but as the game progressed the Palestinians were able to find a more effective strategy of exploiting the gap in Nepal's 1:5 defensive lines, scoring most of their points from the 9 metre line.

In the women's matches on Wednesday morning, Taipei beat Jordan 43:15 (with a score of 22:9 in the first half).

The hosts started out with a 3:3 formation on the defensive but changed in the middle of the first half to a 2:4, finding it easier to penetrate the Taipei defence and scoring a few points through the shooters.

However, the Jordanian team was quite slow in returning on the defence after their attacks, allow-

ing the Taipei team to score most of its points on the fast breaks.

Though the Taipei defence was not all that strong, the Jordanian offensive was less cohesive, making it an easy task for the Taipei team to win. The Taipei team managed to exploit the Jordanian team's shaky passes, scoring most of its points on the fast breaks.

Taipei team's victory over Jordan places the former in the fifth position and the hosts moved to the 6th position.

Also in the women's games earlier in the day, the Japanese team easily downed Syria 23:9 with a 13:4 score in the first half. The outcome of that game placed Japan in the third position and Syria in the fourth.

By deadline time on Wednesday, the games were still in progress and the results between South Korea and Japan were not out yet.

In the last of the men's games on Tuesday, Japan edged Qatar with final score of 38:12.

Five Mexican athletes die in road accident

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — Five members of Juarez Autonomous University's women's basketball team were killed when a bus hit the car they were riding in near Chihuahua, officials said.

Eyewitnesses said the accident happened at 3:30 a.m. (0930 GMT) Monday when the bus, speeding down the Pan-American

highway with only its parking lights on, struck the Volkswagen Caribe carrying the five women, the newspaper Diario de Juarez reported Tuesday.

Ramon Rivera of the Chihuahua State Highway police told El Universal de Juarez that the bus apparently was in the wrong lane.

"The five women lost their

lives instantly, the impact was so brutal," he said.

The unidentified bus driver fled the scene, Rivera said. There were no reports of injuries on the bus.

The uniformed athletes were returning to Juarez after a basketball game in the capital city of Chihuahua State at the time, officials told the newspaper.

"The university is in mourning. Besides losing some good students, it lost some magnificent athletes," Ernesto Lucero said.

The victims were identified by police as Marta Vargas Castillo, Monserrat Leticia Garcia Moreno, Maria del Pilar Luna Cervantes, Irma Zepeda Saucedo and Maria de Lourdes Villar Rodriguez.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Norwegian leads Tokyo skiing meet

MINAKAMI, Japan (AP) — World-ranked Norwegian ski jumper Hroar Stjernen, competing on a chemical surface instead of snow, won the 70-metre FIS Minakami summer jump meet Wednesday. Competing in bright sun and 29-degree Celsius temperatures in this hot spring resort north of Tokyo, Stjernen leaped 87.5 metres and 86 metres for 218.1 points, making up for his defeat to Austrian Franz Neulandner in the first leg of Japan's Summer Jumping Competition in Nozawaonsen Sunday.

Balestrat reaches N.J. Classic quarterfinal

MAHWAH, N.J. (R) — Australian Dianne Balestrat scored a major upset when she dispatched second-seeded American Zina Garrison in straight sets on Tuesday to reach the quarter-finals of the \$150,000 Jersey Classic tournament. Balestrat, one of the world's top players a decade ago and now ranked 26, scored service breaks in the opening game of each set and ousted the seventh-ranked Garrison 6-4, 6-1 in a 61-minute second-round match.

Chesnokov advances in Nynex Open

RYE BROOK, New York (AP) — Second-seeded Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union overcame a second-set lapse to beat Barry Moor of South Africa 7-5, 2-6, 6-3 Tuesday night to reach the round of 16 in the Nynex Open tennis tournament. The 21-year-old Chesnokov, the top player in the Soviet Union, held a 2-1 lead in the second set before Moor rallied to even the match. The Soviet star relied on groundstrokes and a strong forehand in winning the third set. In other matches Tuesday night, John Ross of Florida, beat fifth-seeded Jamie Yzaga of Peru 6-3, 6-2 and Eddie Edwards of South Africa eliminated Martin Wostenholme of Florida 6-4, 7-5.

Leconte defeats Wilkison to reach Hamlet Cup 2nd round

JERICHO, N.Y. (R) — Seventh-seeded Henri Leconte had to dig into his reserves of fighting spirit to overcome American Tim Wilkison 7-5, 4-6, 6-4 on Tuesday and clinch a place in the second round of the Hamlet Challenge tennis tournament.

Leconte, who had a set point against him in the opening set, finally emerged victorious. But it was a tough struggle and the Frenchman's temper was often frayed, particularly in the second set when he was warned for abusing an official.

"This was an important match for me to win," said Leconte, who will face second-seeded Jimmy Connors or fellow-American Jimmy Arias in the second round. Leconte was struggling badly in the 10th game of the first set when he had to fight off set point at 30-40. He succeeded and then

broke before holding his own service to clinch the set.

He appeared to be heading for an easy win in the second set when he led 4-2, but he lost concentration when Wilkison held his own service and then broke on a disputed call.

Leconte lost the last four games of the set and was warned from the chair for abuse of an official.

In the third set, Leconte recovered. He broke service twice for a 4-1 lead and then held off the rallying American.

Eighth-seeded David Pate of the United States won his opening match, beating Leconte's Davis Cup teammate Guy Forget 6-7, 6-4, 6-3.

Pate is scheduled to meet the survivor of a match between top-seeded defending champion Ivan Lendl and Jay Berger of the United States.

Olympic talks resumption hinges on Pyongyang's answer — IOC

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is still waiting for North Korea to reply to its latest proposal for co-hosting the 1998 Summer Games awarded to Seoul, the IOC spokeswoman said.

Michele Verrier said Tuesday that only after receipt of this answer can the IOC decide on whether to invite both North and South Korean representatives to a fifth round of talks on the issue. "At this point, no fifth round is planned," she said in a telephone interview.

Ms. Verrier noted that formal invitations for the Seoul Games are to be issued three weeks from now, one year before the official Sept. 17 opening but said this was no deadline.

She said negotiations would be possible even after that date "but on the practical side it would be more difficult" to arrange them.

At the fourth round, last month, North Korea was offered five sports, with the men's 100-kilometre cycling race and the women's volleyball tournament added to an earlier proposal for staging table tennis, archery and some preliminary soccer games in Pyongyang.

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch then said it was the panel's latest "final offer." In the meantime, Pyongyang has come forward with new proposals which it said amounted to a "drastic" reduction of its previous demands.

North Korea said it would settle for five full sports, including the entire Olympic soccer tournament, and part of a sixth instead of eight events sought earlier.

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| 1- Hikmat Mohammad Hlal | Boshra | Owner | Dalallah | 54.5 |
| 2- Thamiir Hazzaa El Hadeed | Banoon | Owner | Suliman | 54.5 |
| 3- Shahr Farhan | A Nael | Owner | Mahmoud | 54.5 |
| 4- Moleed Mohammad A. El Hady Ghazalan | Mwafak | Owner | Yousef | 53 |
| 5- Mohammad Khalil El Maray | S Wanzh | Owner | Yousef | 50 |
| 6- Mishaal Miteeb El Faiez | A Mishaal | Owner | Ahmad | 50 |
| 7- Oudil El Kaisy | Ibnel Reel | Owner | Rashed | 50 |
| 8- El Dawees El Bakheet | Shakoub | Owner | A Jagheel | 48.5 |
| 9- Aia Mazon El Abbady | B El Jagheel | Owner | A Jagheel | 48.5 |
| 10- Fhaid Mlak El Saweer | Azab | Owner | Basil | 48.5 |
| 11- Ghalib Mohammad Fhaid | A El Ehour | Owner | Basil | 48.5 |
| 12- Mashhour F.A. Jnaib | Abirah | Owner | Basil | 48.5 |
| 13- Khalal Hamad | B Hsbab | Owner | Basil | 48.5 |
| 14- Mohammad Maeesah Mlak | S Iskanoar | Owner | George | 56 |
| 15- Farhan Fathi Oudil | El Bane | Owner | George | 56 |

SECOND RACE 4.30 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1600 METRES

| Owner | Horse | Trainer | Jockey | Weight |
|-----------------------------|-----------|---------|--------------------|--------|
| 1- Najla Wasil El Bsharat | Wardan | Owner | Khair ElDin George | 53 |
| 2- Aly Fareed El Saad | Adjal | Owner | Khair ElDin | 50 |
| 3- Ibrahim Kamal El Bsharat | Dahman | Owner | Khair ElDin Rashed | 50 |
| 4- Wasil Kamal El Bsharat | Najman | Owner | Khair ElDin Saad | 50 |
| 5- Nimr El Hmoud | Barkan | Owner | Mahmoud A. Jagheel | 50 |
| 6- Nimr El Hmoud | B Rabadan | Owner | Mahmoud Kasim | 48.5 |
| 7- Nimr El Hmoud | Rimah | Owner | Mahmoud Mahmoud | 48.5 |
| 8- Kamal Wasil El Bsharat | M. Dina | Owner | Khair ElDin | 48.5 |
| 9- Mamdouh El Hadeed | Hibab | Owner | Yousef | 48.5 |

FOURTH RACE 5.30 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

| Owner | Horse | Trainer | Jockey | Weight |
|----------------------------|------------|---------|---------|--------|
| 1- Mohammad Suliman | M Samy | Owner | Saad | 58.5 |
| 2- Yousef Ahmad | Ghareeb | Owner | Basil | 54.5 |
| 3- Mohammad Khalil | Owah | Owner | Mwafak | 54.5 |
| 4- Mahmoud Musallam Fayadh | Nimr | Owner | Yousef | 53 |
| 5- Suliman Salman | Tallaa | Owner | Mahmoud | 52 |
| 6- Musallam El Khatan | El Saklawy | Owner | Suliman | 50 |
| 7- Sobhy Abboud Nafie | Sail Raad | Owner | Kasim | 48.5 |
| 8- Sali Ghazy A Jabr | M Najla | Owner | A Jabr | 48.5 |
| 9- Ziad Abboud Nafie | Anan | Owner | George | 48.5 |
| 10- Mohammad A. El Jalil | Mad | Owner | George | 48.5 |

FIFTH RACE 6.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

| Owner | Horse | Trainer | Jockey | Weight |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------|--------------------|--------|
| 1- Taitel Saman El Hwaidy | Fahoud | Owner | Dalallah | 53 |
| 2- H.H. Late Sheri Nasir Stabile | Fozan | Owner | Abbas | 50 |
| 3- H.H. Late Sheri Nasir Stabile | Sabalan | Owner | Abbas | 50 |
| 4- H.H. Late Sheri Nasir Stabile | Habbai | Owner | Abbas | 50 |
| 5- Nimr El Hmoud | Midan | Owner | Mahmoud | 50 |
| 6- Nimr El Hmoud | El Hasna | Owner | Mahmoud A. Jagheel | 48.5 |
| 7- Nimr El Hmoud | Sahel | Owner | Mahmoud Mahmoud | 48.5 |
| 8- Kamal Wasil El Bsharat | Outomank | Owner | Khair ElDin Rashed | 50 |
| 9- Najla Wasil El Bsharat | Shababik | Owner | Khair ElDin Salah | 50 |

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To those who are interested in handmade oriental rugs and carpets. The management of the Bedouin's Bazaar is pleased to inform you that we have recently received a very nice collection of handmade oriental rugs and carpets, antique copper, brass, silver jewellery, embroidery and all kinds of gifts and souvenirs.

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N.B. A saleswoman is wanted to work at the bazaar.

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Cinema Tel: 675573

OPERA

RUTHLESS PEOPLE

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675571

PLAZA

BEY THE DOOR KEEPER

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 622198

RAGHADAN

NEVER SAY NEVER AGAIN

Performances 12:15, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15

هنا من الامم

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| One Sterling | 1.6120/30 | U.S. dollars |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.3197/3207 | Canadian dollar |
| | 1.8268/75 | West German marks |
| | 2.0592/0602 | Dutch guilders |
| | 1.5040/50 | Swiss francs |
| | 37.96/98 | Belgian francs |
| | 6.1025/65 | French francs |
| | 1322/1323 | Italian lira |
| | 143.00/10 | Japanese yen |
| | 6.4053/4100 | Swedish crowns |
| | 6.7100/50 | Norwegian crowns |
| | 7.0225/75 | Danish crowns |
| One ounce of gold | 457.10/457.60 | U.S. dollars |

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices were dull in afternoon business, drifting for lack of interest after a firm opening on the back of Wall Street's record high closing overnight.

Dealers said the early advance failed to attract follow through buying in a market still hampered by low turnover and the weaker trend in sterling and government bond prices. The thinness of volume has been adding to the drift in prices.

Wall Street's lower opening on Wednesday contributed to the gloom after the gains here at the beginning of the week on buying for the new account. At 1447 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 33 to 2,244.2 after Wednesday's high of 2,259 and low of 2,240.3.

The lower pound and government bonds unsettled the market and drew attention to the forthcoming release of U.K. July balance of payments figures on Sept. 1, dealers said.

An unexpectedly large deficit in May balance of payments figures and a June surge in bank lending was behind the market's July to August downward correction, dealers said.

Investors therefore remain wary about the cycle of U.K. economic indicators beginning next month. But many analysts believe that the upcoming corporate reporting season will see a large number of companies announcing a rise in dividends. This in turn could attract fresh investment and buoy the market.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a good day to come to a meeting of minds with a person you usually don't understand. Give some thought to family members who are feeling neglected.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Something extremely profitable comes up in connection with someone you're fond of. Keep busy today. Idle hands...

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Try to use your artistic inclinations in your daily activities. This will make your day and evening at home much more bright.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be wary of an acquaintance who has an eye on your assets. Focus your attention on pleasing your family.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Take some time to find an artistic piece which will brighten your home. The search could be rewarding.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Pay attention to your communications with those around you. Invite some guests you enjoy into your home.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) If your assets were managed more efficiently you could be getting a better return. Expert advice is needed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) See what you can do to improve the living conditions around your loved one. Be sure to drive carefully tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) Although you haven't appreciated your mate's friends in the past, getting to know them better may change your mind.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Changing your ways a bit would gain you the affection from your mate which you've been wanting.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Some public work done now will bring you a great return, as well as added prestige. Be positive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A new outlet for your pent-up energy will yield an interesting fringe benefit. Keep busy today and you'll be happy.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Home is the best place to express yourself today, but don't force your opinions. Keep your temper at work.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have a very cooperative nature in both business and social activities. Your child will also have the ability to see through to the hearts of matters, whitening huge projects down to workable levels. Provide him or her with training in precision and artistry.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Now is the time to add some new dimensions to your vocational interests and activities. Relying on your intuition would be highly beneficial, as it's not likely to be wrong.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Show a partner that you are willing to make changes on an agreement, but be subtle, and take a subordinate position.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) There are many modern innovations which can eliminate some old-fashioned routines you've been distressed with.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be more enthusiastic about entertainments which your mate enjoys. Drive very carefully today and tonight.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) This is a good day to make any needed improvements to your property, or at least plan to have them done.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) A bit of praise for one associates and a friendly attitude toward another can bring fine results for the days ahead.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You like neatness and order around you, but try to loosen up and add some charm and creativity to your surroundings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) If you are not invited elsewhere, give a little party yourself and repay some social obligations this way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) The information you've been seeking can be gathered easily today. Show your mate how devoted you are. Drive carefully.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you are very cooperative and accommodating, you can achieve your goals easily. Keep conversations private.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A prominent person who in the past has been unapproachable can do you a favor. Show gratitude for this.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be more willing to listen to ideas from associates, and you can pick up some really fine ideas which will help you.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Rely on your intuition when dealing with difficult persons. You can be highly romantic with your loved one this evening.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be constantly looking to the future while studying current conditions, and, as a result, will have great success due to readiness for any eventuality. Teach your progeny to reach decisions more quickly and not to take too long deliberating.

Canadian banks boost reserves on loans to developing countries

TORONTO (AP) — Major Canadian banks are more than doubling their default protection, three months after New York's Citibank became the first Western bank to boost reserves against uncollectable loans to developing nations.

Under federal orders, the banks have increased cash reserves from 10-15 per cent to 30-40 per cent on loans to 34 financially troubled countries, including Brazil, Mexico and Argentina.

The banks have loaned more than 25 billion dollars (\$18.75 billion) to the developing countries, many of which cannot repay even the interest.

To prevent a crisis, Mr. Michael Mackenzie, federal superintendent of financial institutions, asked the banks last month to follow U.S. and European lenders by at least doubling the 2.9 billion dollars (\$2.1 billion) they had set aside to cover doubtful foreign loans.

On Tuesday, the Bank of Nova Scotia quadrupled its debt coverage to 35 per cent, taking a \$94.9-million-dollar (\$446 million) loss for the third quarter.

At the same time, Royal Bank boosted its protective fund by 1.4 billion dollars (\$1.05 billion) to 2 billion dollars (\$1.5 billion) or 37 per cent of its liability, incurring a loss of 630 million dollars (\$473 million) for the quarter.

The Bank of Montreal announced a net loss for the quarter of 615.2 million dollars (\$461 million) after deciding last week to boost its reserves to developing countries by 753 million dollars (\$565 million) to 35 per cent of potential losses.

Toronto Dominion Bank and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce both increased their reserves to 40 per cent last week, incurring respective charges of 475 million dollars (\$356 million) and 450 million dollars (\$338 million).

National Bank of Canada, last of the big six, has yet to announce its plans.

The opposition has complained that the government handed banks a tax break that ordinary taxpayers will have to make up.

But Finance Minister Michael Wilson told parliament that when a loan goes bad or its value is reduced because of market circumstances "then the banks are allowed to take a write-off and that is a tax-deductible expense."

Toronto Dominion Bank, meanwhile, has unloaded 411 million dollars (\$308 million) of its questionable loans to developing nations on a growing "secondary market" in which banks and major investors gamble on which loans eventually will be repaid.

The world debt situation worsened considerably in February when Brazil announced it would stop making payments on foreign loans.

Mr. William Mulholland, chairman of the Bank of Montreal, has urged his colleagues not to back away from investment in developing countries, saying: "Brazil and Mexico are going to be around for a long time."

Mr. Morton said Eurotunnel will seek to refinance the loan within two years of the tunnel's planned opening in 1993.

Eurotunnel won't be able to draw on its credit until after completion of a £750 million (\$1.2 billion) share issue scheduled for November.

About £300 million (486 million) of the issue will be sold in London and about the same amount in Paris, with the rest spread around the rest of Europe, Japan and North America.

Credit National, a French government-owned long-term industrial investment bank, has also

joined and is underwriting £60 million (\$97 million).

Altogether, French and British banks account for about 15 per cent each of the syndication.

Japanese banks a little over 25 per cent, West German banks about 12 per cent, North American banks about seven per cent and Arab banks about five per cent.

Dutch, Italian, Swiss, Norwegian, and Bahraini banks are also taking part.

The £5 billion (\$8.1 billion) loan is an 18-year credit with an interest rate of one percentage point to 1 1/4 percentage point over London Inter Bank Offered Rate, or LIBOR, which currently stands at between 7 1/16 per cent and 7 3/4 per cent.

Mr. Morton said he said it "reflects the start-up nature of the project."

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NCR agrees to pay fine for ties with Arab boycott

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Commerce Department said Tuesday it had imposed a \$381,000 penalty on computer-maker NCR for 266 alleged instances of cooperating with the Arab boycott of Israel, the biggest such penalty in the 10-year history of U.S. anti-boycott laws.

The department said NCR neither admitted nor denied the alleged violations under the export administration act and agreed to pay the penalty.

Between 1982 and 1985, nine foreign subsidiaries of the Dayton, Ohio-based company allegedly provided information to Arab League countries involving their business relations with countries and people on the League's boycott list, the department said.

The department also said that on 10 occasions, NCR subsidiaries allegedly agreed to comply with the Arab boycott of Israel and individuals and companies doing business with the Jewish state.

Lira banknotes decorate home of Lebanese

BEIRUT (R) — A man has covered his war-scarred walls with Lebanon's devalued banknotes after he found that wallpaper would be four times more costly than the local lira.

Beirut's As Safir newspaper reported the event a few hours before the central bank reported that the lira had plummeted to a new low against the U.S. dollar.

It said Mr. Suheil Karouni from the southern port of Tyre had covered his walls, damaged by Israeli artillery fire, with one and five-lira notes for the equivalent of \$18 compared with \$76 for wallpaper.

But it added that he intended to use the notes if the Lebanese currency should ever recover its former value.

The central bank set a closing price of 287.00 liras (286.00/288.00) to the dollar Wednesday down 19.50 liras from the last official close of 267.50 (265.00/270.00) on Friday.

"What do you expect?" said one dealer. "There's panic in the market. The more people hear the pound is falling, the more they rush to buy dollars."

A mother of three small children burst into tears when she heard the latest closing price.

"My husband just cannot afford to feed us properly any more," she said.

The cost of many basic consumer items is estimated to have risen by about 300 per cent this year, largely because of the lira's collapse.

Lukman summons OPEC committees

LAGOS (R) — OPEC, acting to deal with the threat of a new glut and sliding crude oil prices, Tuesday summoned meetings for Sept. 7 of key committees that monitor production and prices.

The president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Oil Minister Rilwanu Lukman of Nigeria, said here that the talks would be at OPEC headquarters in Vienna.

"I have already asked the secretariat in Vienna to convene a meeting of the committee of five (Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Venezuela, Algeria and Nigeria) and the committee of three (Indonesia, Venezuela and Nigeria) for Monday, Sept. 7, 1987," he told a news conference.

His announcement followed a sharp drop in oil prices of around \$3 a barrel in recent weeks.

The oil price has weakened in recent days as tensions over the crisis in the Gulf have abated.

Earlier, worried by the crisis, oil companies seemed eager to absorb into emergency stocks a rising volume of oil being pumped by OPEC. But now, that oil simply seems destined to bang on the market.

The Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), an authoritative Nicosia-based industry newsletter, said that OPEC output in August was around 19.7 million barrels daily.

OPEC's self-imposed ceiling is only 16.6 million.

Several OPEC members have exceeded mandated quotas. Some have been Gulf states apparently anxious to get oil to the market in case the tanker war

hops up — industry sources list the United Arab Emirates, Iran and Kuwait among them.

Founder members of OPEC including Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, and also Iran, had teleaxed Mr. Lukman urging that something be done to mop up the over-supply before prices crash.

Traders' perception that the new glut was in prospect sent the price of Britain's North Sea oil down to \$17.48 a barrel for October delivery, its lowest since April, although it edged up a little later.

OPEC is trying to peg prices at \$18.

The group is anxious to avoid a replay of last summer when an earlier bout of overproduction sent prices crashing from \$30 to below \$9 a barrel.

Several market analysts said at the weekend that they believed OPEC had learned its lesson from last summer and that it would soon act to curb the developing over-supply — a prediction apparently borne out by Mr. Lukman's move Tuesday.

Crude oil prices on the spot market strengthened slightly Tuesday after word that OPEC was taking some action. North Sea Brent crude traded for October at \$17.89.

The OPEC committee of five oil ministers monitors spot oil price movements. The committee of three ministers is designed to see that members comply with assigned output quotas.

Mr. Lukman Tuesday insisted that the overproduction was way below the published estimates of

nearly three million barrels daily.

"At best one million to 1.2 million," he said, when asked how much OPEC was over its ceiling.

The figures of overproduction being circulated by the international media of about three million barrels per day are internationally exaggerated, speculative and designed to further depress prices," Mr. Lukman said.

"Most of the overproduction is purported to come from the Gulf states," he added, but declined to name any countries.

The committee of three would visit countries which were exceeding quotas. "We will certainly visit mostly Gulf states... we have problems with Iraq which did not sign the agreement. We have problems with UAE because of its confederation," Mr. Lukman said.

Iraq did not join a June OPEC accord assigning quotas to all 13 member states, because its assigned quota was below that given its Gulf war foe, Iran.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has difficulties controlling output by the individual emirates which belong to it. Those include Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Nigerian oil officials said Mr. Lukman had been under pressure from some OPEC ministers to act on the violation of quotas.

The ministry released texts of telegrams by Mr. Lukman to his Saudi, Iranian and Venezuelan counterparts asking for concrete information on which countries were cheating on their production quotas.

All efforts will be directed to achieve OPEC's objective of maintaining market stability at \$18 per barrel, Mr. Lukman said.

He, too, said the lessons of the 1986 price crash were fresh in members' minds while the recent price drop was the aftermath of panic-buying due to Gulf war tension and saturation of the market.

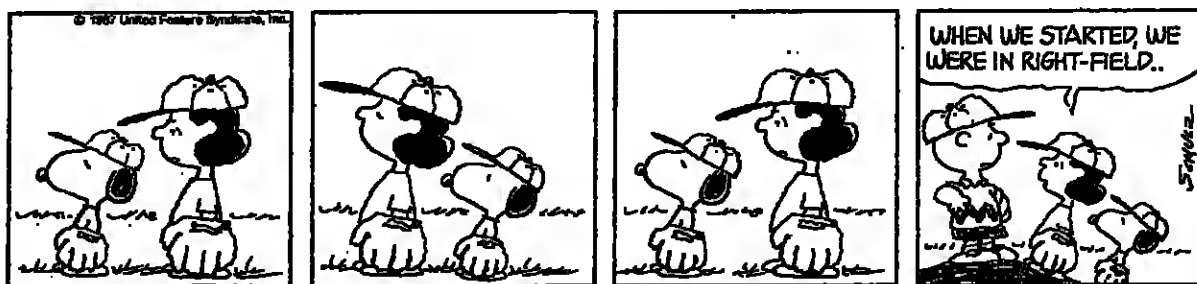
Asked the possibility of a emergency full meeting of OPEC before its scheduled Dec. 9 conference, Mr. Lukman said: "First things first... chances are that this will follow over."

An OPEC communique after the last conference on June 27 said: "Should there be any significant change in market prices, the (pricing) committee would immediately call for an extraordinary meeting of the conference with a view to deciding on the necessary OPEC production levels during the second half of the year, which would secure the desired market stability."

Norway said Tuesday it would reconsider cuts in its oil production, made to help OPEC defend prices, if OPEC members continued to produce too much.

Norway, Western Europe's second biggest oil producer after Britain, is not an OPEC member but it pledged support for the group after last year's price collapse.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Stop snacking so much — your tongue is muscle-bound!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TAFUL

ROBIL

LYBBAF

MALEYS

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: WHEN IT'S A

Yesterday's Jumbles: DANDY FLOUR CATNIP OCCULT

Answer: What the guy who constantly drank hot chocolate must have been — A "COCCA NUT"

Communist rebels attack Philippine business targets

MANILA (R) — Communist rebels attacked a police station, a factory and a banana plantation in the Philippines, killing a policeman and a militiaman, the military said Wednesday.

On Manila's second guerrilla front, the leader of the country's largest Muslim rebel group called for the resumption of peace talks. In a telephone call to his headquarters in the southern Philippines from Saudi Arabia, Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) leader Nur Misuari said he would welcome a new initiative from President Corazon Aquino to restart stalled talks on autonomy for Muslim-dominated provinces in the south.

Sixty armed men, believed to be members of the New People's Army, raided a cement factory about 80 kilometers south of Manila Tuesday night. They killed a policeman and escaped with dynamite, detonator cords, blasting caps and firearms, armed forces Capt. Anselmo Cabilangan said.

CIA officer was aware of U.S. arms drops to contras

WASHINGTON (AP) — A high-ranking CIA officer acknowledged Congress he was aware of the dropping of U.S. arms to the Nicaraguan contras with U.S. assistance, according to the declassified testimony.

But he later listened silently as superiors misled Congress about the government's role, the chief of the agency's Central American Task Force, Alan Fiers, said. He said he provided direction for U.S. assistance in lethal material drops to contras fighting on Nicaragua's southern front in 1986.

Mr. Fiers said he tried to remain within the strictures of the congressional ban on U.S. military aid, and he said the changing language of the Boland Amendment bans caused him to pull back CIA involvement in the air drops in the spring of 1986.

A transcript of his testimony was released by the Joint Congressional Iran-Contra Investigating Committee, which questioned Fiers and two other CIA officers in secret sessions in early August.

Documents released at the same time show that congressional investigators found no evidence of drug trafficking by the Nicaraguan rebels.

That conclusion was revealed in a memo following a review of the contras' financial records, in-

come tax returns and other documents.

The July 23 staff memo also suggested that the House Iran-Contra Committee drop further investigation of the drug trafficking allegations because other panels, as well as independent counsel Lawrence Walsh, were pursuing them.

The secret testimony released Tuesday quoted Mr. Fiers as saying the late CIA director, William Casey, told him nothing illegal was going on.

Mr. Fiers said he could not discount testimony from Oliver North, Col. North said Mr. Casey had known and approved of the possibly illegal diversion.

"I wouldn't want to bet on it one way or another," Mr. Fiers said in 300 pages of previously secret testimony. "From where I stand, I think there was a lot of truth in Col. North's testimony."

Mr. Fiers also indicated Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) helicopters may have been used to fly arms to the rebels in early 1986 at a time Congress had banned such aid. Committee sources said this showed the CIA was more directly involved in supplying the contras than has previously been made public.

He said he urged the administration to tell Congress about the scandal but appeared to suggest he had run into objections from Secretary of State George Shultz.

6 students hurt as police open fire during Panama protests

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Riot police fired tear gas and birdshot at students protesting the military-backed government as hundreds of lawyers and law students marched on the supreme court demanding respect for human rights.

Witnesses said at least six students were wounded slightly in the campus protest Tuesday. Meanwhile, journalists planned a protest Wednesday afternoon against the government's closure last month of three opposition newspapers and two radio stations.

It was the second straight day police were called to break up a protest at the University of Panama's downtown campus, where students burned trash and cars to harridan surrounding streets.

The campus has been a center for more than two months of protests against the government of President Eric Arturo Delvalle and the chief of the Panama defense forces, Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Gen. Noriega was accused pub-

licly in early June by his former second-in-command of being linked to political killings, election fraud and drug trafficking.

On Monday, students burned five government cars and blocked streets for about nine hours before police moved in with tear gas.

Students seized three government cars as they approached the campus early Tuesday and set them on fire as their drivers fled.

By law, police are barred from entering the campus, but they fired into the school grounds. Reporters, photographers and other witnesses said at least six students struck by birdshot, mostly in the face and chest.

All six remained conscious and said they would seek treatment at private clinics.

Later Tuesday, about 500 lawyers and law students marched along the city's main commercial street to the supreme court building carrying a black casket to mourn human rights in Panama.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIY
©1987 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠9 ♣83 ♠AKQ10
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠8 ♣K1076 ♠J853 ♠J72
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass Pass
Dble 4 ♠ ?
What do you bid now?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A8 ♣AKQ32 ♠AQ ♠KQJ
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠93 ♣10983 ♠AKQ10
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
3 ♠ 3 ♠ Dble ?
What action do you take?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AJ9852 ♠A2 ♠K543 ♠7
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A8 ♣AKQ32 ♠AQ ♠KQJ
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Partner opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?

Countries, agencies offer aid to Bangladesh

DHAKA (Agencies) — Flood-ravaged Bangladesh announced money-saving measures Wednesday to fund a fight against hunger and disease and said 15 countries and international agencies had offered emergency help.

"Our friendly countries are gradually coming forward with financial support. We are also getting anxious queries from many others," Bangladesh's Foreign Secretary, Nazrul Islam told a news briefing.

He said 15 countries and international agencies have pledged 143,000 tonnes foodgrain and \$600,000 in cash. Red Cross societies and World Council of Churches from 13 countries have offered help worth another \$300,000.

Officials said nearly 150 people had died of diarrhoea, dysentery and malaria in northern Bangladesh, the worst flooded area.

Mr. Islam said the Foreign Ministry had stopped all transfers of its diplomats abroad and was taking other austerity measures to cut costs by 10 per cent and divert savings to a relief fund.

The government has imposed restrictions in inviting more than 50 guests to wedding ceremonies and urged people to shun expensive festivities.

Mr. Islam said the floods, Bangladesh's worst for 40 years, have killed 600 people, affected nearly 20 million, destroyed 1.5 million tonnes of crops and made more than one million people homeless.

400 die in Indian floods

In New Delhi, parliament was told Tuesday that heavy flooding in three north eastern states has taken the lives of 401 people and damaged a half million homes.

The figures are more than double previous estimates from the states of Assam, Bihar and West Bengal.

Meanwhile, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi surveyed the flood-affected states by helicopter and pledged 325 million rupees (\$25 million) in assistance to flood victims.

He told villagers at stops in all three states that federal survey teams would visit within the next few days to make more complete damage assessments that could lead to further aid.

"We shall always stand by the flood-hit people," he said at his last stop in Bihar.

In New Delhi, however, opposition party members walked out of the lower house of parliament, charging that federal plans for handling flood problems were inadequate.

Hart returns to U.S., evades questions on rejoining presidential race

DENVER (AP) — Former U.S. Sen. Gary Hart told reporters meeting him on his return home from vacation in Ireland that he soon will announce whether he intends to reenter the 1988 presidential race.

"I don't have any kind of comment to make this evening," Sen. Hart told reporters Tuesday night at Stapleton International Airport. "I want to get together with my family and get caught up on the news of the last few days and find out what has or has not gone on."

"Then I will cover all the points that need to be covered in a comprehensive way. ... I'll have something to say pretty soon," he said.

Sen. Hart was met at the airport by his wife, Lee.

His comments echoed those made earlier Tuesday to reporters when he arrived at Kennedy International Airport in New York City.

The former senator quit his campaign for the opposition Democratic nomination on May 8 after the Miami Herald reported he spent part of a weekend with actress-model Donna Rice.

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (Agencies) — President Daniel Ortega has announced the four members of the nation's National Reconciliation Commission, a key element in the new Central American peace plan.

During a news conference, he also said the government would permit the return of three Roman Catholic priests exiled from the country. He called the decision "a gesture of good will."

Named to the commission were Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo, the Archbishop of Managua and outspoken government critic, as representative of the Roman Catholic Church.

The government's representative is Vice President Sergio Ramirez, and the representative of 11 opposition political parties in Mauricio Diaz, president of the Popular Social Christian Party.

Gustavo Parajon, president of the Evangelical Committee for Development, was named to fill the seat reserved for an outstanding citizen not in the government or from the party in power.

Mr. Ortega said he hoped the committee would be a step toward ending the war against the U.S.-backed contra rebels, noting both sides are Nicaraguans and "both are victims of the policies of the North American government."

Formation of the national commission is one of the elements of a peace plan signed on Aug. 7 by Mr. Ortega and the presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica.

They are to verify compliance with commitments in the plan on amnesty, ceasefires, democratic reforms and free elections.

Nicaragua is the first nation signing the accord to establish a commission under the plan, aimed at ending the Nicaraguan war and the war in El Salvador against leftist rebels.

Mr. Ortega's announcement follows U.S. President Ronald Reagan's speech Monday night over the contras' clandestine Radio Liberation in which he said the United States would continue supporting the rebels.

The broadcast, repeated several times, was jammed by the

Sandinista government and could not be heard in some parts of Managua, although it came through clearly in other parts of the capital.

Mr. Ortega said the broadcast "goes against the peace efforts we are making and encourages confrontation between Nicaraguans."

In Caracas, Venezuela, a top U.S. official said Tuesday Washington doesn't expect much of the new Central American peace plan and won't abandon the Nicaraguan rebels to the "tyranny and cruelty" of the Sandinistas.

Gen. Vernon Walters, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said the plan "asks us to abandon our friends ... before the important question — the presence of Soviet and Cuban military advisers in Nicaragua — is resolved."

"This we cannot do," he told a news conference.

Gen. Walters said the United States would not "abandon those who fight for the freedom of their country to the mercy of the Sandinistas. We cannot abandon our friends to the cruelty and tyranny" of Nicaragua's left-wing government.

Gen. Walters arrived in Caracas on Sunday, the same day foreign ministers from 13 Latin American nations met to set up a 15-member committee to oversee a ceasefire scheduled to take effect throughout Central America on Nov. 7.

Meanwhile U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Jim Wright said Tuesday President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica, initiator of the peace plan, will report on its progress to Congress next month.

"I have invited the president of Costa Rica ... to come and speak to our colleagues and give us a progress report on the peace process," Mr. Wright told a news conference.

Mr. Wright, who called the plan a "hopeful prospect for peace in Central America," said Mr. Arias had agreed to address Congress on Sept. 22.

Sikh gunmen kill 2 Hindu police officers

CHANDIGARH, India (AP) — Suspected Sikh militants gunned down two Hindu police officers Wednesday as they were exercising at a detective training school, a spokesman said.

The spokesman, M. George, said four men in a car drove up to the school and started firing with automatic weapons at about 20 police officers, who were exercising.

When the shooting began, a police instructor ordered the police officers to fall to the ground, which helped reduce casualties, United News of India

(UNI) said.

Sub Inspectors Bhaskaran Ghose and Vinod Sharma were killed and six officers were injured, George said. UNI said the sub inspectors were trying to run away when they were shot.

On Tuesday night, Sikh militants killed two men and injured a woman in two attacks in Amritsar district, police said. Amritsar is the centre of Sikh separatist violence.

Officers from throughout the country are trained at the federal detective school in Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab state.

Evidence in Detroit crash shows flaps not set for liftoff

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. investigators say physical evidence shows the wing flaps on the Northwest Airlines jetliner that crashed near Detroit killing 156 people last week were not extended for takeoff.

They also said tests so far show the crew did not deliberately disarm an alarm that failed to go off to warn them that flaps were not set for liftoff.

The National Transportation Safety Board said in a statement issued Tuesday that the flaps were "in the 'up' or fully retracted position."

A failure to extend the flaps might have caused the crash by preventing the aircraft from gaining enough lift to remain in the air after takeoff, investigators have said.

The safety board is heading up the investigation of the crash of a Northwest MD-80 jetliner shortly after takeoff from Detroit Metropolitan Airport on Aug. 16.

The disaster, the second worst in U.S. aviation history, killed 154 people in the aircraft and two on the ground, the Wayne County Medical Examiner said.

The sole survivor was a four-year-old girl found clutched in the arms of her dead mother.

The jetliner, on its way to Phoenix, climbed only about 50 feet (15 metres) after takeoff before crashing onto a busy highway.

An investigator told Reuters that tests so far show the crew did not disarm the alarm that would have warned the crew the flaps were not down.

"Preliminary data shows that it (the alarm) was not disconnected. But the evidence is not 100 per cent conclusive and we are making additional tests," said a safety

board official who asked not to be identified.

At issue is a cockpit alarm system designed to sound an audible warning if the plane's engines reach takeoff thrust with its wing flaps in the wrong position.

Investigators said the sound of the alarm was not picked up by the flight data recorder, which was recovered from the wreckage.

Meanwhile four-year-old Cecilia Cichan, the only survivor aboard Northwest Airlines Flight 255, has been told her parents and brother died in the crash. But she didn't understand she would never see them again, relatives said.

After regaining consciousness last week, Cecilia had said her name and asked for her mother. When she asked for her parents Monday night, "it was time to tell Cecilia," her grandfather, Anthony Ciamaichela, told the Arizona Republic.

"She didn't understand," Pauline Ciamaichela, the girl's grandmother, told the newspaper. "She'll be asking again."

The child has been gaining strength although she remained in serious condition at the University of Michigan Medical Centre in Ann Arbor, said hospital spokesman John Turk.

Turk said no decision has been made on who will care for Cecilia when she is released from the hospital.

Cecilia's grandparents, godparents and other relatives have been at the hospital with her since the crash on Aug. 16.

"Rescue workers said Cecilia was shielded by the body of a woman believed to be her mother."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etkenson

COLORFUL CHAMPIONS

By William Crampton

- ACROSS
1 "What — God
5 Aardvark
8 Bismarck
14 Rabbits
18 Trunk
20 Bismarck
21 "Crazy" man
22 Celtic or Not
23 RED, WHITE
24 BLACK & GOLD
25 In 1933
26 Gloria
27 Santa's belief
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Diagrams

By Roger Cohen

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COLUMNS 7 & 8

Filming set to begin on Rambo III

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After a five-month delay, filming is set to begin on the movie Rambo III, which takes the shaggy superhero portrayed by actor Sylvester Stallone to Afghanistan. The filming of Rambo III was delayed because of difficulties in finding appropriate locations and uneasiness felt by Stallone about some parts of the screenplay, which he authored, the trade newspaper daily Variety has reported. The paper said filming for Rambo III will begin Sunday on locations in Israel and Morocco. The movie is the third instalment in Stallone's Rambo series. In this one he stages a mini-invasion of Afghanistan. The original movie, "First Blood" was released in 1982. Rambo was released in 1985. Tri-Star is expected to release the film next May, Variety said.

Joan Collins wins divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Joan Collins, star of a popular television series Dynasty, won a divorce from former rock singer Peter Holm and then told reporters she will never marry again. "I don't need a husband," she quipped. "I need a wife." Miss Collins, 54, wearing a white suit, took the witness stand for a few seconds in a routine procedure for the granting of a final divorce decree. "Is everything in the petition true and correct?" asked superior court Judge Kenneth Black. "Yes," Miss Collins answered before the packed courtroom. "Will further delay or counselling save your marriage?" the judge asked. "No," Miss Collins said. The judge then declared that the marriage was over because of "irreconcilable differences."

Nazi photos found in garbage pile

NEW YORK (AP) — A photo album found in a garbage heap contains 13 photographs of Nazi-occupied areas of the Soviet Union, and includes hangings and a meeting between Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini. The 21-year-old college student who said he found the photographs near his Pat